

Let My People Shmooz



Interactive Questions to Spark Your Shabbos Table Discussions

ISSUE 3

SHABBOS PARSHAS RE'EH 5784

We'd love to hear your feedback, stories, and ideas. Email us at aderaba@cchfglobal.org

A Rule Is a Rule!

I run a *gemach*. One of the rules of the *gemach* is that if someone took a loan from us and paid back late, he cannot get a loan again.

So here's the story.

A few months ago, Yossi needed a loan to pay for his daughter's *chasunah*—but he paid it back late. Now Yossi needs to consolidate his credit card bills, so he approached our *gemach* for a new loan.

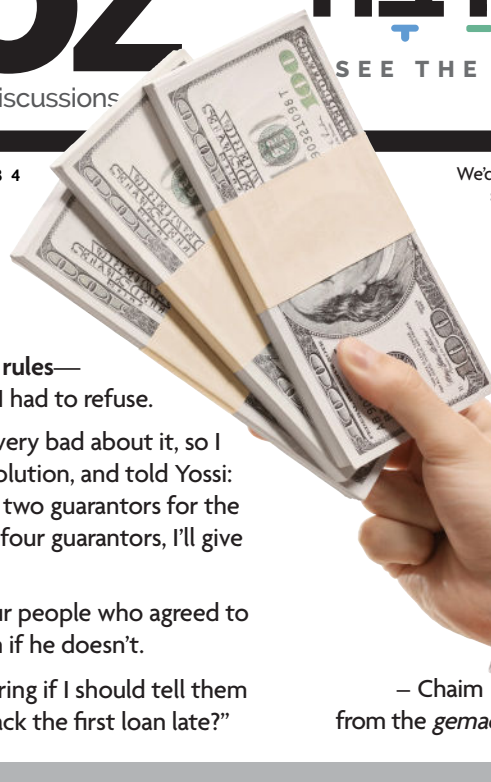
The rules are the rules—what could I do? I had to refuse.

But I was feeling very bad about it, so I came up with a solution, and told Yossi: 'Usually, we need two guarantors for the loan. If you bring four guarantors, I'll give it to you.'

Yossi brought four people who agreed to pay back the loan if he doesn't.

Now I am wondering if I should tell them that Yossi paid back the first loan late?"

— Chaim
from the *gemach*



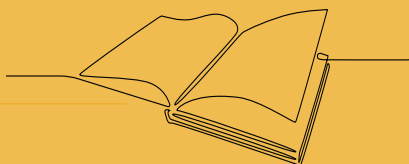
What's the *Psak*? Can you guess the halachah?

- A **Yes**, Chaim must tell them because they need to know about the risk they're taking on.
- B **Yes**, Chaim can tell them, but he doesn't have to. They can do their own homework.
- C **No**, it's loшон hora to say that someone paid late.

The Halachah The answer is C.

Paying late doesn't make Yossi a credit risk. Many people pay loans or bills late. Since the guarantors might back out if Chaim informs them, Chaim would be causing Yossi an unjustified loss, and they shouldn't be told.¹

However, if Yossi defaulted on even part of the old loan, the guarantors should be warned.²



1- See Sefer Chofetz Chaim, Tziyur 2; Be'er Mayim Chaim 1
2- Be'er Mayim Chayim, Hilchos Rechilus, 91

Rav Pam zt"l advised great caution when presenting halachic scenarios to the public, as each situation is unique. This *she'eilah* is for discussion only; actual halachic decisions should be made by a *rav* or halachic expert on a case-by-case basis. Reviewed by Rabbi Moshe Mordechai Lowy.

It's Your Life

The Torah teaches us that the words we choose determine how we experience our lives.

By taking hold of our power of speech, we take hold of life itself. But Hashem does not simply hand us this tremendous power and leave us to discover how it works. He gives us detailed

instructions, in the form of the laws of shmiras haloshon.

More than a body of halachah, shmiras haloshon is Hashem's human relations training program that teaches us how to interact with others in the best possible way.



Aspire
Higher

Before you speak, you control your words
Once you speak, they control you.



the heart
of a Yid

שנראה מעלת חברינו

Hakafos were over and Shmuly* waited at the designated meeting place for his friends. They were all going to have their *seudah* at the home of Rav Yerucham Olshin, a Rosh Yeshivah at Lakewood's Bais Medrash Govoha.

Shmuly waited and waited. The crowd was nearly gone, and it was getting late. **Where was everyone?**

Finally, he decided that he would go alone. Maybe his friends were already there, he thought. He walked through the dark streets and arrived at the Rosh Yeshivah's door.

Surprisingly, the house seemed quiet. Could the others have just decided not to show up? He knocked gently on the door and the Rosh Yeshivah answered with a warm smile and greeting.

"I'm sorry my friends didn't show up," he apologized. "There must have been some misunderstanding."

A Heaping Serving of Sensitivity

The Rosh Yeshivah didn't seem to mind. He invited his guest to the table and spoke to him while the *rebbeztzin* got the meal ready. Soon Shmuly was enjoying delicious Yom Tov food and Rav Olshin's inspiring words. The meal lasted for quite a while. At last, Shmuly got up to leave, thanking the Rosh Yeshivah and apologizing again for the absentees.

The next morning, when Shmuly saw his friends, he vented his frustration. "Where were you guys? How could you leave me to go all alone to the Rosh Yeshivah's house and have a *seudah* by myself?"

The boys looked at each other, some of them shaking their heads in wonder. "This is unbelievable," said one boy. "Shmuly, didn't you know that the Rosh Yeshivah has his *seudah* after the third *hakafah*? We were waiting for you, but when you didn't show up, we went with Rav Olshin and had the whole meal."

"What? Do you mean that he ... that I ... that it wasn't even ...?" he stammered. "Yup. The Rosh Yeshivah did the whole thing all over again for you, just so you wouldn't be embarrassed," the boy said incredulously. "Didn't he mention anything to you?"

"Not a word," said Shmuly. "Not one single word."

*Name has been changed.



Take it to the Table

Should the friends have told him about his mistake?

What's the right way to tell someone they've made a mistake?

What's
the real
story?

היי דן לכף זכות

Temima Gold had a job interview. She was trying to find someone to watch her baby, but no one was available.

"Ma, why don't you call the Engels?" suggested Mrs. Gold's daughter. Rina Engel was her close school friend, and

Rina's older sister Dina was home for a few weeks, getting ready to leave for seminary.

Mrs. Gold called the Engel's home and asked for Dina. "I need a babysitter for tomorrow at two," she said. "Are you by any chance available?"

"Sure," said Dina.

"Great," Mrs. Gold sighed with relief. "Please be here by two. I have to leave right on time."

Dina agreed. At 2:00 the next day, Mrs.

Gold stood at the door with her coat on, waiting for Dina to arrive. Then it was 2:03, then 2:05, then 2:07. "Where is that girl?" Mrs. Gold thought. "How can she be so irresponsible? This isn't right!"

Mrs. Gold's husband called. "Just want to wish you good luck," he said. But

Mrs. Gold wasn't feeling cheerful. "I'm standing here waiting for this Dina, who is already ten minutes late! What's

wrong with teenagers today?"

"Why don't you call the house and see what's going on?" her husband suggested.

When Dina's mother picked up the call, Mrs. Gold began complaining about how late it was and how she had been very specific that Dina had to be there by two. "It's no joke!" she said. "I have a job interview and I absolutely cannot show up late!"



Can you Crack the case?

"Oh! You're the one who needed a babysitter?" the mother said. "You told her the time, but you didn't tell her your name!"

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Last week's Print and Share raffle winner is:

The Eisenmans

of Eretz Yisrael, who won an exciting collection of Shabbos treats.



Last week's Children's Aderaba Story raffle winner is:

The Gruners

of Manchester, England who won a Shabbos Party in a Box.

Want to win next week?

See the newsletter email for details on how your family can win.



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DEDICATIONS

As a *zechus* for good health for Batya Rochel bas Zipporah, Dovid Yitzchok ben Tzipporah, and Zvi ben Tzipporah

As a *zechus* for a *shidduch* for Yehudis Devorah bas Fruma Frayda

לענין חיים ויחיל מיכל בן רפאל פיינעל שניאור ז"ל
גלב"ע ערב שבת קודש י"א אלול תשע"ז ת.נ.צ.ב.ה.