

# Let My People Shmooz

Interactive Questions to Spark Your Shabbos Table Discussions



ISSUE 22

SHABBOS PARSHAS BO 5785

We'd love to hear your feedback, stories, and ideas. Email us at [aderaba@cchfglobal.org](mailto:aderaba@cchfglobal.org)

## Answer Our Survey

Our company arranged a convention to give us ways to work better and stay motivated. There were over a dozen experts and speakers. At the end of the convention, the organizers gave us questionnaires to fill out anonymously. We were asked to rate each speaker from 1 to 10. There was also a comments section to give specific feedback on each speaker.

Am I allowed to fill it out?

— Ella



## What's the Psak?

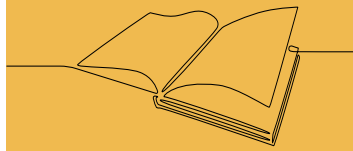
Can you guess the halachah?

- A Yes, how else will the organizers know which lecturers to invite back?
- B No, it's loшон hora about the speakers.
- C You can leave a specific comment, but you may not rate the speakers.
- D No, but you can give positive feedback on the speakers who were good.

1- Chofetz Chaim, Hilchos Loshon Hora 101

## The Halachah

The answer is D.



Reviewed by Rav Moshe Mordechai Lowy.

Rav Avraham Yaakov 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.

The Shmiras Haloshon Shailah Hotline:  
718-951-3696 2-3PM / 9-10:30 PM

## Not Quite L'to'eles

Giving a bad rating to a speaker is loшон hora, because his reputation and career will suffer. There is a constructive purpose for the convention organizers to find out which speakers were effective and which were not, but some conditions of *to'eles* are missing:

- \* A rating can be an exaggeration, which is not allowed.<sup>1</sup> That's because a rating is vague. It means whatever the listener thinks it means. For *to'eles*, the speaker has to be specific about the issue and make sure the listener understands what he means.
- \* Secondly, *to'eles* cannot cause the subject more damage than he deserves. A bad rating can ruin a speaker's opportunities to speak, when maybe all he needs is to change his tone or choose a more interesting subject.

## What to Do If It Happens to You

1. The organizers should ask the speakers what questions they would like the audience to answer. In this way, the organizers can collect information for the speakers that will help them become more effective.
2. Rather than asking for negative input, the questionnaire should ask which speakers the audience found most helpful and why.



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שוראה מעלת חברינו

## How You Can Give to Everyone

Every day, most of us find *tzedakah* requests in the mail. If we can afford to contribute and it's a cause we care about, we send a donation. Most people throw the other envelopes away unopened. They might even feel a bit sad about it, but they say to themselves, "I can't give to everyone."

But there's another way to deal with those rejected

envelopes, which we learn from a well-known Torah lecturer.

He puts all the *tzedakah* envelopes that come in the mail into a pile on his desk. After a while, he goes through the pile and sends

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contributions to those he wants to support. But the rest aren't just tossed in the garbage. Instead, he picks up each envelope and recites a different chapter of *Tehillim* for each organization, person, or cause. After

that, he respectfully discards them.

He can't help every cause that comes to his attention, but that doesn't mean that he's cold to them. His *tefillos* show where his heart is—with his brothers and sisters in their times of need, and with Hashem, who can take care of everyone.

## Take It to the Table

How can we ensure that we don't become **desensitized** to the suffering of Jews we don't know?

**Know a story that belongs in this column?**

Tell it to us so that we can inspire thousands.

Send a brief outline of your story to [aderaba@cchfglobal.org](mailto:aderaba@cchfglobal.org)

What's the **real** story?

הוי דין לכף זכות



The speaker was standing at the podium when Shmuel entered the packed hall. His friend, Meir, was sitting in the first row. Shmuel nodded at Meir and found a seat.

The speaker, a famous Rosh Yeshivah, began his lecture, and soon, the entire audience was

listening in complete silence. Suddenly, the ring of a cell phone interrupted the quiet. Shmuel turned to the source of the noise, wondering who could

be so inconsiderate.

It was Meir's phone! Meir stood up and left the room, the cell phone glued to his ear. How rude! Don't people know that they should turn off their cell phone before a speech? And especially in front of such an important Rosh Yeshivah!

Shmuel tried to think more positively.

Maybe Meir left his phone on by mistake? Soon, Shmuel noticed Meir returning to his seat.

Fifteen minutes later, the same ringtone broke into the speech again. Meir again left the room and then came back. This scene repeated twice more, and every time, Shmuel felt angrier at Meir.



## Can you Crack the case?

When the speech was over, Shmuel headed toward Meir to tell him just how rude he had been. But then he saw Meir handing the cell phone to the Rosh Yeshivah. Shmuel followed Meir to the door and asked, "Was that the Rosh Yeshivah's cell phone that kept ringing?" "Yes," Meir replied. "He asked me to hold it for him and to leave the ringer on and pick up if anyone called. You know his wife is sick, right?" No. Shmuel had no idea. "Anyway," Meir continued, "the Rosh Yeshivah was worried that he would not be reachable if an emergency came up. He told me to sit in the front row so he would hear the phone ring. When he saw me return to my seat, he knew everything was fine."

## A Cell Phone Wake-Up Call

Heard from Rabbi Yechiel Spero on CCHF Live Life Better video series