

Interactive Questions for Your Shabbos Table



Be aware! When discussing shmiras haloshon issues, using personal examples may lead to unintended loshon hora. Keep it general to keep it kosher.

ISSUE 26

SHABBOS PARSHAS TERUMAH 5785

Please do not read during davening and krias haTorah.

I Gave Him That LOOK

The sound of a phone ringing during *davening* really disturbs me.

Tzvi sits behind me in shul. His phone rang during *Shemoneh Esrei*, and he quickly stopped the call. A few minutes later, during *chazaras hashatz*, it rang again. A few people gave him a little, “*shah!*” Then, during *Krias HaTorah*, it rang again, and that pushed me over the

top.

“Nu!” I shouted, and I gave him a serious look that more or less said, “What’s your problem?” I thought about it afterwards and was wondering, was that loshon hora?

—Yisroel



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

- A **No**, but something is amiss.
- B **No**, you didn't say anything bad.
- C **Yes**, you've given a bad impression of Tzvi to others.
- D **No**, Tzvi deserved the rebuke.

The Answer

The halachah is A.

No. It's not loshon hora, but it is *onaas devarim* and *halbanas panim*.

Reviewed by
Rabbi Moshe Mordechai Lowy

Rav Pam, zt”l, advised great caution when presenting halachic scenarios to the public, as each situation is unique.

This *shailah* 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

It Doesn't Have To Hurt

If this were loshon hora, it would be forbidden even though no words were actually spoken.¹ An eyeroll, smirk, or exclamation can say it all. But here, Yisroel's message was aimed at Tzvi himself. That makes it *onaas devarim*,² hurting someone with words or other ways of communication.³ Although Tzvi's behavior was wrong, Yisroel didn't have the right to insult him or cause *halbanas panim* — embarrassment. The Torah says that rebuke, when needed, must be given without shaming the person,⁴ which means speaking to him privately. Respectful rebuke is also much more likely to be accepted.

What to Do If It Happens to You

Don't rebuke someone while you're angry. You can almost guarantee that you're not really thinking about how to help the other person improve. Also, try to judge people favorably. Maybe the phone that keeps ringing belongs to an emergency medical worker or a community *askan*. Maybe there's a health crisis going on in his family, and he was instructed to keep it on. After *davening*, you can ask the person respectfully about the need for the ringtone to be on.

Note: We should do our utmost to strengthen the sanctity of our shuls and focus intently during the *chazaras hashatz*.⁵



We are an **אדרבה** family
We talk **to** our neighbors, not **about** them.

See the
good
in the
heart
of a Yid



One Friday night in 1953 during the Korean War, a Jewish soldier came to his chaplain, Rabbi Shrage Zev (Philip) Zimmerman, at Fort Gordon in Augusta, Georgia. "I just found out I'm being sent into combat in Korea," said the soldier. "I'm the only son of Holocaust survivors, and both my parents have heart conditions. If I go off to Korea, I'm afraid the worry will kill them. Can you get me a transfer?"

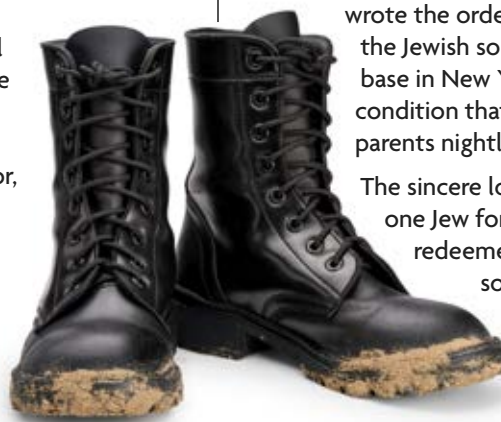
Rabbi Zimmerman felt that the lives of the soldier's parents might indeed be at risk, and so he set out on foot on Shabbos morning to speak to General James, the chief officer at Fort Gordon. After a six-mile trek, he presented General James with the facts. The tough-minded general refused to transfer the soldier. To

The Rabbi Who Walked the Walk

emphasize his point, he grabbed Rabbi Zimmerman's lapels, on which a small *Aseres HaDibros* insignia was pinned, and told him, "These tablets are made of stone, and stone cannot be broken. My orders are like stone."

Rabbi Zimmerman thanked the general and began his 6-mile walk home. The general, who was standing by the door, asked "Chaplain, where's your jeep?"

Rabbi Zimmerman replied, "I have no jeep."



"So how did you get here?"

"Today is Sabbath, sir, and we are not permitted to drive. I walked."

"You walked 6 miles for a soldier you don't even know, and now you're walking another 6 miles back?"

"Yes," replied Rabbi Zimmerman.

"Come back in here," the general commanded. He immediately wrote the order to transfer the Jewish soldier to a base in New York, on the condition that he visit his parents nightly.

The sincere love of one Jew for another redeemed the young soldier, and it can redeem us too.

Be the
good
Pursue
Peace

Aviva* was in poor health. She was always exhausted and a bit angry that she had to deal with this problem. But Aviva also had a great sense of humor and was a talented writer. She started turning her challenges into funny essays

Blessing or Blasting?

their newsletter.

Aviva insisted on only one condition. To protect her privacy, she used a false name for her column, calling it "Debby's Day." The column went on for many years. Meanwhile, Aviva recovered, raised her family and became a grandmother.

One day her cousin, Leah, called her and said, "Hey Debby, how's your day going?"

"What?" Aviva said, blushing. "Who told you I'm Debby?"

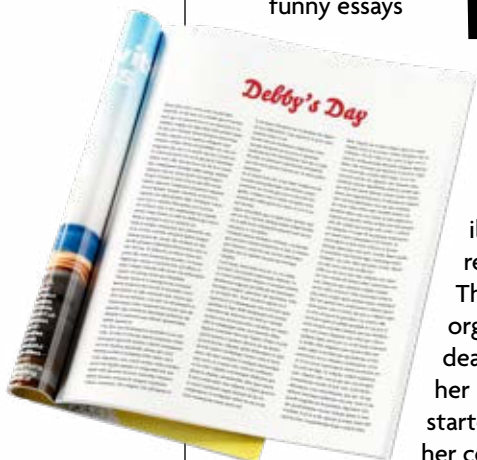
"Oh, it was in the fundraising brochure," Leah answered. I'll read it to you. It says, "Our monthly newsletter features the humorous "Debby's Day" column by the talented Aviva Kornblum."

Aviva was furious. After all these years, her secret was out! She was about to call the organization to blast whoever was at fault, but she had been learning CCHF's life-changing book on shalom, *Live the Blessing*, which advised waiting a day before reacting.

There was nothing to lose by waiting, so she did. The next morning, when she thought about the situation, she began laughing. "Who cares?" she said to herself. "I'm a 55-year-old bubbly already. What am I hiding?"

She did call, however, to calmly point out the mistake. The secretary apologized sincerely. "You know," she said, "since you were embarrassed, and you didn't strike back, you have a special power to give a *brachah*." And so, Aviva spent the day blessing people instead of blasting them.

*name has been changed



that other people with her illness could relate to. Then, an organization dealing with her illness started printing her column in

Share positivity
in your community!
Be מזוכה את הרבים!

To sponsor or distribute this newsletter in your shul/neighborhood

EMAIL YOUR
CONTACT INFO
OR CALL:

USA
aderaba@cchfglobal.org
845-352-2505 ext 148

ISRAEL
aderabaisrael@cchfglobal.org
0547-929-008

UK
chizukshiurim@gmail.com
07946-370-936

DEDICATIONS

Sponsored anonymously
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for our family

לע"נ ריזל פייגל בת יצחק ע"ה
Rose Schiff 21 Shvat
לע"נ ליבא בת אברהם ע"ה
Louise Joy Schiff 29 Shvat

As a *zechus*
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L'ilui nishmas
Shaindel Rivka bas
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לע"נ חיים יחיאל מיכל בן
רפאל פייזעל שניאור ז"ל
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י אלול תשע"ז ת.נ.צ.ב.ה.

As a *zechus* for a
refuah sheleimah for
Elisha Chaim Yitzchok ben
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