

Interactive
Questions
for Your
Shabbos
Table

ISSUE 30

SHABBOS PARSHAS PEKUDEI 5785

Please do not read during davening and krias haTorah.

It's All a Blur!

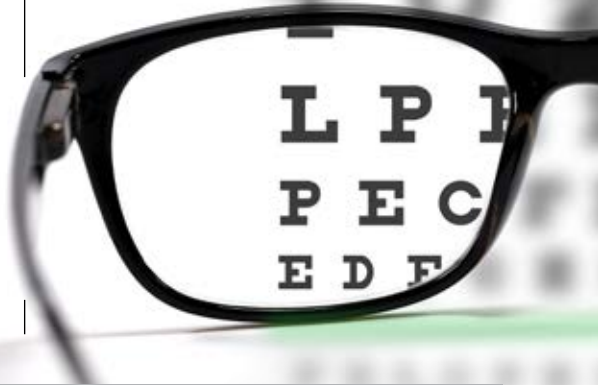
Recently, my eyes have gotten much weaker, so I visited a local optometrist—Dr. Silver. I told him that I spend almost the whole day learning from *sefarim* and writing on the computer. He checked me thoroughly and said that I need stronger lenses. I chose new frames, paid for the exam and a few days later, I picked up my new glasses. But my eyes still felt

very strained. I had Dr. Silver recheck me and he said my eyes needed some time to get used to the new prescription. I asked him if he thought I should see an ophthalmologist, and he said: “It’s probably a good idea.”

I got an appointment with Dr. Klein, a really top doctor who’s also a relative, so he took me quickly and even cut his fee for me. He said the problem was that I needed two different prescriptions—one for reading and one for driving. Then he said, “Can I ask which

optometrist you used?” Can I tell him?

—Aryeh

What's the **Psak?**
Do you know the halachah?

- A **No**, there's no purpose in telling him, it's just loshon hora.
B **Yes**, your doctor should have all the information about your case.
C It depends on why the ophthalmologist is asking.

What's Worse: A Bad Name or Bad Service?

One of the most common forms of loshon hora are words that damage someone's reputation. But if damaging information has to be shared to prevent someone else from harm, it allowed under the rules of *to'eles*.¹ In healthcare, this scenario comes up often, because we might have PAs, nurses, and various specialists caring for us, and sometimes one will do a poor job.

Before Aryeh can tell Dr. Klein that Dr. Silver prescribed the glasses, Aryeh has to find out why Dr. Klein wants to know. Is it because he might say, “Oh, Dr. Silver! He's always right on the mark! Maybe you really should give yourself a little more time to get used to those glasses”? Or maybe he might be thinking, “I have to know which optometrists do a good or bad job so I can give my patients good recommendations.” Both of those are constructive purposes. Just being curious is not.

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

1-Sefer Chofetz Chaim, Hilchos Loshon Hora 4:11

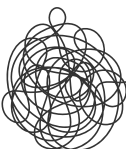


The Answer
The halachah is C.
It depends on
why he is asking.
Reviewed by
Rabbi Moshe Mordechai Lowy

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

My **אדרבה** moment

Instead of complaining
about how badly my
employee is performing,



I put my energy
into helping
him improve.

See the
Good
What's the
Real
Story?



Adapted with
permission from
*The Other Side
of the Story*,
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Daniel, home from work late, sat eating his dinner while his wife Devorah spoke to her sister, Rachel, on the phone. Rachel had good news. Her daughter Kayla got a job! She was hired to do data entry at the office her father managed.

"She'll be great at that!" Devorah told her sister. "I'm so happy for her!"

Devorah was quiet as she listened to her sister respond. Then she laughed and said, "You realize, of course, that she's not the best secretary."



I Heard It With My Own Ears

Daniel was disappointed in his wife. How could she say such a thing about Kayla to the girl's own mother, her own sister, just when everyone was so excited about her new job? How could she be so thoughtless and negative?

When Devorah got off the phone, she saw that Daniel looked a bit upset. When she asked him what

was wrong, he didn't hesitate to tell her. "What kind of thing is that to say to your sister, that Kayla won't be a good secretary?"

"I never said anything like that," a surprised Devorah responded.

An exasperated Daniel let out a huge sigh. "I heard it with my own ears!"

Can you Crack the case?

She only remembered saying nice, encouraging things, because that's really how she felt! Suddenly, she understood. "That comment wasn't about Kayla," she told Daniel. "Rachel said she called yesterday and Chayala (their four-year-old daughter) had answered the phone. Rachel said, 'I guess she didn't give you the message.' That's the 'secretary' I was talking about!" Just as what we see is often misleading because it's just one slice of a whole picture, what we hear can easily fool us too, especially if we only hear one side of the conversation!

See the
Good
in the
heart
of a Yid



In 1978, two brothers, Moshe and Tibor Rosenberg, immigrants from Czechoslovakia, bought Ungar's bakery in Cleveland. One Shabbos shortly after they took over the business, a truck pulled up in front of the store and a non-Jewish worker began repairing the air-conditioning unit on the building's roof. Since the store was right in the heart of the Jewish community, many people noticed. A few community leaders went to discuss

The Fastest Way to Stop a Rumor

the incident with Rav Mordechai Gifter, the Telzer Rosh Yeshivah.

Rav Gifter stopped the discussion and insisted that everyone judge

the situation favorably until the facts were known. Meanwhile, the Rosenberg

brothers noticed that they were losing many customers.

Rav Gifter met with the brothers and found out that they had ordered the repair weeks earlier. They had asked the worker to come when the store wasn't busy, and, without telling them, the worker chose Shabbos as the ideal "slow time." Rav Gifter then verified the brothers' story with the company that sent the worker.

Although the misunderstanding was straightened out, the brothers worried that their customers still would not trust them. They asked

the Rosh Yeshivah to write a letter they could post on their door, clearing them of any wrongdoing.

"You won't need that," the Rosh Yeshivah told them. The next day he drove 25 minutes from his home to the bakery to make a small purchase. And he did this every day for the following month, until the community realized, "If the Rosh Yeshivah trusts them, we can trust them too!"

The business flourished and became a fixture in the Cleveland Jewish community.

**Share positivity
in your community!**
Be מזוכה את הרבים!

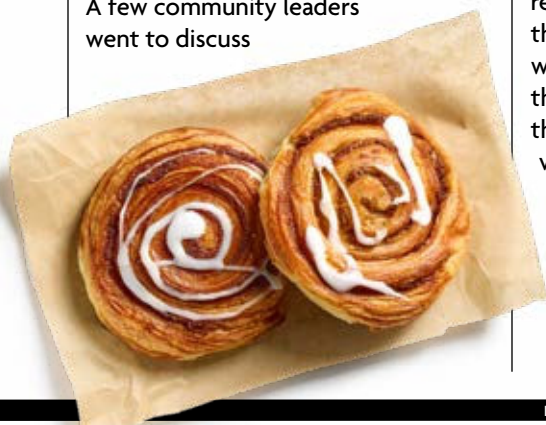
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DEDICATIONS

L'ilui nishmas Alexander Zev
ben Meir z"l, and
Meir ben Menachem Zev z"l
v'shto Malka bas
Alexander Shmuel a"n

In honor of my parents,
Marshall and Shirley
Bobrin

As a zechus for a shidduch
for Yehudis Nechama bas
Chaya Miriam and
Sara Faiga bas Chaya Miriam

לע"נ
יוסף אריה בן מרדכי צבי ד"ל
ואסתר מלכה בת יעקב מאיר ע"ה

As a zechus
for a shidduch for
Shaindel Bracha Eidel
bas Sara Golda

L'ilui nishmas
R' Yechiel Mechel ben
Yitzchok Issac HaLevi z"l,
yahrtzeit 27 Adar