

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 33

Please do not read during  
davening and krias haTorah.

SHABBOS PARSHAS TAZRIA - METZORA 5785

## What If He's Just Not My Type?

David, a close friend of mine, is under a cardiologist's care and was told to get a personal trainer. He called me to ask who I use, and I told him that I use Levi Goldwasser.\* He's fantastic—exactly what I need.

"Weren't you using someone else for a while?" he asked. "Remember, a few years ago when you lost some weight, and you were jogging every morning?"

He was right. I had spent about five months with a trainer named Yaakov Blau, but he was not my style. He was too pushy. He probably has a lot of satisfied clients, but he was too much for me. I felt like I was in the army. I needed a friendlier approach.

Can I tell him who my first trainer was?

—Reuven

\* Fictitious names

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

- A **Yes**, just saying someone's name is not loshon hora.  
B **No**, the fact that he didn't recommend Yaakov first is loshon hora.  
C **Yes**, but he must say that Yaakov's personality didn't suit his.

The  
Answer

The halachah is **C**.  
Yes, but with conditions.

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

To Each **His Own**

Usually, if our words put someone in a negative light or cause him a loss, those words are forbidden.<sup>1</sup> Recommending the second trainer instead of the first one hints that there was something negative about the first one; therefore, it would be *avak loshon hora*.<sup>2</sup>

However, if there is a benefit for the listener, the information is allowed to be relayed as long as the conditions of *to'eles* are met. A trainer who has a firm personality is exactly what some people need and want. Others find the approach too heavy-handed. Whether it is a flaw or an asset is subjective.

We are only allowed to reveal a subjective flaw if we are asked.<sup>3</sup> Here, because David needs the information to make an informed decision, it is as if he has asked—and it's for a *to'eles*.<sup>4</sup> Therefore, Reuven can tell David who he used as his first trainer, but he must explain why he needed someone with a different personality, and that others are very happy with him.

1- Sefer Chofetz Chaim, Hilchos Loshon Hora, 5:2  
2- Sefer Chofetz Chaim, Hilchos Loshon Hora 9:1 Be'er Mayim Chaim 1  
3- Sefer Chofetz Chaim, Tziyur 3:6 4- Be'er Mayim Chaim 3:10

We are an **אדרבה** family

At our Shabbos table, **positivity speaks** for itself.



See the  
good  
in the  
heart  
of a Yid



Sometimes, Hashem sends us just what we want: an exciting vacation, a new baby, a wedding in the family, a new job, a high score on a big test, or an acceptance letter to a great school. We're so happy that we want to tell it to the world! What better way to thank Hashem than to tell everyone how good He has been to us?

But before we open our mouths, we have to open our eyes. Will our good news sting the person we're telling by pointing out what he's missing?

A story of Rav Chaim Shmulevitz, zt"l, the Mirror Rosh Yeshivah, inspires us to sharpen our sensitivity:

Heard from  
Rabbi Yaakov  
Bender

## Can Your Good News Be Bad News?

Rav Chaim survived the war in Shanghai and then became the Rosh Yeshivah of Mir-Yerushalayim. In 1950, after so much loss, his family was blessed with a great *simchah*. His oldest daughter was engaged to



Rav Nochum Partzovitz, the future Mirror Rosh Yeshivah.

Right before the *chuppah*, Rav Chaim and his wife took their daughter aside and told her that they would not be walking her down to the *chuppah*; two other relatives would do it instead. The reason, they explained, was that her *chassan* did not have parents. Standing alone under the *chuppah*, he might be pained by the sight of his *kallah's* parents walking her down the aisle.

Rav Chaim had a heart as big as the world. After so many years of suffering, his heart was bursting with happiness at this first *simchah* in his family, and yet he looked past his own happiness to make sure that his joy would not become someone else's sadness.

Say the  
good

word  
power

Shaya sat across the table from the nice young man who was engaged to his daughter, Dassi. The *chassan* had asked for a meeting, and it was short. "This is nothing against Dassi," he said. "Just a feeling inside that this marriage isn't right for me." Shaya assured the boy

that there were no hard feelings. Better a broken engagement than a broken marriage. He wished the *chassan* well and went home to deliver the news.

## Fixing It for Dassi

Dassi was devastated. The whole family wandered around in a state of disbelief. Then Shaya got a call from an old friend of his. "You don't know this," he shared, "but my daughter also had a broken engagement. I'm going to tell you something that helped us. At the time, we made a *kabbalah* that when people would ask us what happened, we wouldn't speak *loshon hora* about the *chassan*. In that merit, we asked that the Chofetz Chaim should intervene for us and help our daughter find her *bashert* quickly. And she did."

Shaya knew this was the right way. He gathered his family and said, "We all know that we'll be getting questions from people about the *chassan*.

He's going to be dating, Dassi's going to be dating, and people are going to ask what happened. We're going to be tempted to vent our hurt. I want us to agree right now that there will be absolutely no *loshon hora* about him. In that *zechus*, I believe that the Chofetz Chaim himself will intervene for us and Dassi will soon be a *kallah*."

The family accepted this *kabbalah*, one that was difficult to keep. But Shaya knew they had made the right decision when, on the 24th of Elul—the Chofetz Chaim's *yahrtzeit*, Dassi became engaged.

Know an  
unpublished story  
that belongs  
in Aderaba?

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)

DEDICATIONS

L'ilui nishmas Elisheva bas Avigail a"h and Sara bas Raizel a"h • לעיני האשה החשובה מרת הענטשע בת ר' יצחק קליין ע"ה • Dedicated by: SFK Enterprise LLC

As a *zechus* for a *refuah sheleimah* for Chana Yehudis bas Faiga Rochel • L'ilui nishmas Aaron ben Meir z"l Dedicated by Shneur Dovid Levine

As a *zechus* for *shidduchim* for Golda bas Deena Tzipporah and Nechama Basya bas Shifra Shaina • לעיני חיים יחיאל מיכל בן רפאל פיוועל שניאור ז"ל