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Interactive Questions for Your Shabbos



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

Please do not read during ening and krias haTorah

What If He's Just Not My Type?

SHABBOS PARSHAS TAZRIA-METZORA 5785

avid, 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.

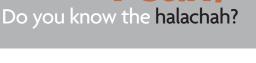
Can I tell him who my first trainer was?







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



To Each **His Own**

sually, if our words put someone in a negative light or cause him a loss, those words are forbidden.¹ 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.2

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.³ 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.4 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.



Yes, but with conditions.

Reviewed by Rabbi Moshe Mordechai Lowy

Ray 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 ray or halachic expert on a case-by-case basis.

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



2- Sefer Chofetz Chaim, Hildnos Loshon Hora, 5:2 2- Sefer Chofetz Chaim, Hildnos Loshon Hora 9:1 Beer Mayim Chaim 1 3- Sefer Chofetz Chaim, Tziyur 3:6 4- Beer Mayim Chaim 3:10.





5 ometimes, Hashem sends us just what we want: an exciting vacation, a new baby, a wedding in the family, a new job, a high score

to tell everyone how good He has

But before we open our mouths, we have to open our eyes. Will our

good news sting the person we're

A story of Rav Chaim Shmulevitz,

zt"l, the Mirrer Rosh Yeshivah,

inspires us to sharpen our

telling by pointing out what he's

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

been to us?

missing?

sensitivity:

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

was engaged to

Rav Nochum Partzovitz, the future Mirrer 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.

Heard from Rabbi Yaakov Bender

Say the

good

word **power** haya 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

Fixing It for Dassi

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.

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?

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