

25
Countries343
Communities16,908
Participating families

ISSUE 91

SHABBOS PARSHAS CHUKAS - BALAK EY: BALAK 5786

Please treat this newsletter with proper respect.
Please do not read during davening or Krias HaTorah.

I Can't Get Any Sleep Around Here!

I just started summer camp, and it is really amazing. I have the best girls in my bunk and the best counselors in the whole camp. But with all this good stuff, there's one person who practically ruins it for me—Shifra. She's the girl who sleeps on the top bunk of my bed, and I never met anyone so clueless. She has no problem stepping with her dirty sneakers on my mattress to climb up to her bunk, or landing on my bed to get down. And she takes forever to get ready for bed, so I get woken up every night when she clomps up the ladder (at least then she uses the ladder!) to finally go to sleep. There are three more weeks to go, and something's got to be done. Can I tell my counselor that Shifra is bothering me?

—Naomi



What's the Psak?

Do you know the halachah?

A Yes.

It's *to'eles*, but first Naomi must speak directly to Shifra.

B No.

It's *loshon hora*. Just switch beds with someone else.

C No.

Deal with it. It's *loshon hora*, and switching beds will give someone else the same problem.

Take the Direct Route

It happens to everyone: Someone does something that bothers us, and we need it to stop. To deal with this, the best place to start is by talking directly to the offending person whenever that's possible. In fact, speaking directly to the "wrongdoer" is one of the conditions of speaking *l'to'eles*.¹ So, before doing anything else, Naomi should come as a friend to Shifra, sharing with her, without anger or judgment, that there's a problem and suggesting that they come up with a solution together, or that they go together to ask their counselor for advice.

If Shifra's not open to Naomi's approach, and Naomi is suffering from Shifra's inconsiderate behavior, she's allowed to report it to someone who can help.²

Ideally, the counselor should find a way to solve the problem without upsetting Shifra, such as by adding another bed or having Naomi change beds with someone who is very easygoing and able to fall asleep easily.

NOTE: In any case where a person is suffering from verbal, emotional, or physical abuse, there is no question that she must speak to someone who is in a position to help—and doing so is *not* *loshon hora*.

Answer: The halachah is A.

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

NEW!

What Do You Say?



If you were Naomi, what would you say to Shifra?

Submit your family's answer, and the best ones will appear in our Aderaba email.

The **winning entrant** will receive the new two-volume pocket edition of **Sefer Chofetz Chaim Linear**.



THANK YOU!



YESHIVA KETANA OF PASSAIC
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Say the
good

word
power

אברהם

SHABBOS PARSHAS CHUKAS-BALAK EY: BALAK 5786

ISSUE 91

One evening in Bnei Brak, someone knocked on Avraham's Levy's* door.

Avraham was a full-time *kollel* man who lived with his wife and 10 children in a cluttered two-bedroom apartment. Avraham wove his way around the scattered toys and book bags and opened the door.

There stood another *kollel* man, someone he didn't know.

"Mazal tov! I just had a baby girl after 18 years of marriage!" said the man.

"Mazal tov!" Avraham replied. "But you have the wrong apartment. The baby *gemach* is one flight up."

"I don't want anything from you. I just want to talk to you for a minute. Can I come in?" the man asked.

Avraham invited the man in and cleared a spot on the couch for him.

"Ten months ago, on Simchas Torah, I decided not to go to my own shul. Usually, I'm OK, but on Simchas Torah, with

that I came here because it's too painful for me to go to my own shul. And now you're rubbing salt in my wounds!

"I saw what you did next. You stood in front of the open *Aron Kodesh* and cried aloud to Hashem. 'Why did I open my mouth? Why did I hurt this man? Please, Hashem, help him! Give him whatever he needs!'"

"Just before Succos, our doctor had told us that we would never have children. Now, ten months later, we have a baby girl. I haven't even reached my whole family yet. But I wanted *you* to know—that's the power of *tefillah*, of caring enough to cry to Hashem from your heart."

*All names have been changed.



everyone dancing with their children, it's too much. So, I went to your shul.

"You saw me sitting on the side. You came over and said, 'Why are you just sitting there! Grab your children and dance!' I answered

See the
good

What's the
Real
Story?

The mothers of Bais Yaakov of Centerville* gathered for the pre-Shavuot event. In addition to the springtime décor and the tables of cakes and fruit, there was one other eye-catching display: buckets of flowers standing in a row across the front of the room.

"Everyone help yourself to a vase, a foam base and some flowers. Make something beautiful!" announced Mrs. Rosen, the school

administrator. The mothers began creating their arrangements. The school staff would wait until the end to make their own.

But there was one problem. One of the mothers, Sarah Green, was scooping up flowers by the handful and arranging them in two vases! There would be little left for the staff.

"Ladies, just a reminder," Mrs. Rosen said, grabbing

the mic. "The supply of flowers is limited. We want everyone to have a chance to make nice arrangements."

The staff members noticed that Sarah Green just kept selecting blossoms for her two vases; one was becoming quite lush. "Well, it is what it is," said one of the secretaries. "We're not going to say anything to her and make her feel uncomfortable."

But really, what was Sarah Green thinking? How could she be so selfish?

*All names have been changed.

What About Everyone Else?

Can you **Crack** the case?

Before the program ended, Mrs. Rosen took the mic to thank all the people who had helped with the event. Meanwhile, Sarah Green sidled up to the podium, her elaborate floral creation in hand. She whispered something to Mrs. Rosen and then took the mic.

"On behalf of all the mothers of Bais Yaakov of Centerville, I'd like to present these flowers to our principal, Mrs. Elfman. I knew she wouldn't take any flowers for herself, so ... these are for you, Mrs. Elfman. It's just a small token of thanks for everything you do for our girls every day."



Submitted
by Mrs.
Rosen*, an
Aderaba
participant

RALPH
THE MOST BEAUTIFUL WIGS IN THE WORLD

L'ilui nishmas Sarah Rachel
bas Yekusial Yehuda a"h

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