

# Let My People Shmooz

Interactive Questions to Spark Your Shabbos Table Discussions



ISSUE 2

SHABBOS PARSHAS EIKEV 5784

We'd love to hear your feedback, stories, and ideas. Email us at [aderaba@cchfglobal.org](mailto:aderaba@cchfglobal.org)

## It's All His Partner's Fault!

**“M**otty and Yehuda are partners in a construction firm and they are supposed to be building my dream house. Motty is a pleasure to work with. You send a message, you get a friendly reply right away. But Yehuda drives me nuts. He's always arguing, nitpicking like crazy. With him, everything takes ages because he insists on irrelevant details. Once, I left out my mailing address (which I've



already given him 100 times) and he called me, screaming. I just can't take it anymore. I've decided to take my business elsewhere. Motty will be devastated that I'm leaving, and I really want to maintain my friendship with him. I want to tell him that his partner is just too stressful to work with.” Can I tell Motty that I'm leaving because of his partner, Yehuda?

– Dov with a Dilemma

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

- A **No**, it will cause a rift between Motty and Yehuda.
- B **Yes**, Dov can tell Motty why he is leaving so that Motty will not be upset with him.

## What to Do if it Happens to You

**M**any people find themselves in this exact position. You want to be able to explain your actions and not look bad in front of one person, so you tell that person who is really to blame for the situation. This is either loshon hora or often *rechilus*.<sup>4</sup>



If you're in this position and you want to maintain a good relationship with someone who will be disappointed with your actions, one option is to say: “I really appreciate our friendship and I hope you know that this is nothing personal between us; there are reasons that I had to switch that I just can't discuss.”

<sup>4</sup> Rav Pam zt"l advised great caution when presenting halachic scenarios to the public, as each situation is unique. This *she'eilah* is for discussion only; actual halachic decisions should be made by a *rav* or halachic expert on a case-by-case basis.

Reviewed by Rabbi Moshe Mordechai Lowy

## The Halachah It depends.

If Dov decided to switch companies and is just telling Motty so that Motty won't be angry at him, it is not a *to'eles* and it's forbidden.<sup>1</sup> But if Dov is still a customer, and only considering leaving the company because of his frustrations with Yehuda, he could tell Motty that he's having problems with Yehuda, so that they'll be able to keep his business—which is a *to'eles*.<sup>2</sup>



## A Look at Rule 3 of To'eles

**B**ut... before telling Motty, Dov should approach Yehuda (if possible) and explain to him that some of the things he's doing are causing Dov to consider leaving. This is because one of the rules of *to'eles* is that one must first approach the subject before discussing the matter with someone else.<sup>3</sup>

Aspire Higher

Hashem created His world through words.

So do we.

<sup>1</sup>- Sefer Chofetz Chaim, Hilchos Loshon Hora, 102  
<sup>2</sup>- Sefer Chofetz Chaim, Hilchos Loshon Hora, 102  
<sup>3</sup>- Sefer Chofetz Chaim, Hilchos Loshon Hora 104  
<sup>4</sup>- Sefer Chofetz Chaim, Hilchos Rechilus 11



the heart  
of a Yid

שנראה מעלת חברינו

## The Doctor's Big Surprise

**M**r. and Mrs. Lamber\* have a sick child. Once, their child needed a treatment offered at Children's Hospital of Philadelphia. They were not from that area, but they decided to undertake the trip to help their child.

Mrs. Lamber tried to arrange insurance coverage for the treatments. The fees would be unbelievably high—\$900 for each appointment!

The family set out on the trip to Philadelphia.

They hadn't heard from the insurance company, but this was their child's chance, and they were taking it. Half-way to CHOP, Mrs. Lamber got a call from the insurance company. "Your coverage has been denied," the agent told her.

"We might as well turn around and go home," she told her husband, her heart aching with disappointment.

"We're not turning around," he replied. They were facing a lifetime of medical

debt, but what wouldn't they do for their child!

At CHOP, they realized immediately that it was an excellent hospital. Because they had no insurance, they had to sign many documents promising to pay the bills. They didn't know how they'd do it, but they knew they had come to the right place.

The last doctor they saw was a frum man named Dr. Grossberg. Soon after the Lambers met him, Dr. Grossberg left the examining room, and his nurse came in. "Can you sign one more paper?" the nurse asked.

"What else is there to sign?" Mrs. Lamber asked.

"This says that Dr. Grossberg is waiving his fee," the nurse answered.

The Lambers could barely believe it; the doctor would see their child for

free! They both started crying. How beautiful it was that someone who had never met them waived his fee just to help his fellow Jew!

A long time later, Mrs. Lamber found out something that made Dr. Grossberg's kindness even greater. Doctors at CHOP were not allowed to waive their fees. Dr. Grossberg had paid the fee from his own money!

\* Names have been changed.



## Take it to the Table

What make this *chesed* so unique?

Have you ever had to come up with a creative solution to be nice?

Word  
Power

**R**av Meir Shapiro, Rosh Yeshiva of Chachmei Lublin, had a dream. What if all of Klal Yisrael learned one page a day of Gemara on the same schedule? What if a Jew from New York could visit England, or Eretz Yisrael, and there he would find a *beis medrash* in which the men were

learning exactly what he was learning?

He imagined the power

of that learning. The *achdus*, the quantity of Torah being learned, the *mesiras nefesh* of all those Jews around the world to stop and spend time with the Gemara every day in Rav Meir's eyes, it was the greatest enterprise he could ever invest in.

But not everyone saw it that way. Some people told Rabbi Shapiro that this wasn't the way Gemara had been



learned up until this point. Others were just negative and told him the idea would never work. Could his idea ever take off?

What if the naysayers had won? Imagine if Rav Meir had said, "They're right. This is a bad idea. Forget it."

Billions of hours of Torah

learning—and the *zechus* and unity that they bring—would be missing from the world. That's what almost happened! Rav Meir himself once told an old neighbor that he sometimes thought he should drop his idea.

This is important for us to remember when people tell us about their ideas. It's not our job to pop someone else's balloon! Maybe he'll succeed or maybe he won't, but nothing good comes from not trying. We never want to be the person standing in the way of a good idea turning into something great.

## Take it to the Table

What would you want people to do or say if you had an idea they didn't think would work?

Does believing in an idea make it more likely to come to fruition?

## Billions of Hours of Torah Deleted

Last week's "Print and Share" raffle winner is:

**The Berger Family** of Jackson, NJ who won a stunning lucite bentcher set



Last week's "Children's Aderaba Story" raffle winner is:

**The Tatel Family** of Lakewood, NJ who won a "Shabbos Party in a Box"

Want to win next week?

See the newsletter email for details on how your family can win.



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As a *zechus* for *shidduchim* and *refuos*  
Dedicated by Dovid Yisroel & Rivka Yehudis Stein

L'ilui *nishmas* Shmuel ben Shlomo Aryeh HaKohen z"l  
and Perel bas Yekusiel Yehuda a"h

לעזר חיים וחיאל מיכל בן רפאל פייוועל שניאור ז"ל  
נלב"ע ערב שבת קודש י' אלול תשע"ז ת.נ.צ.ב.ה.