

Let My People Shmooz

Interactive Questions to Spark Your Shabbos Table Discussions



ISSUE 6

SHABBOS PARSHAS KI SAVO 5784

We'd love to hear your feedback, stories, and ideas.
Email us at aderaba@cchfglobal.org

All Ears?

My wife is often criticized by her manager at work. She tells me that sometimes the manager's statements are justified, but, she complains, why does he have to be so critical? Often, though, his comments are exaggerated and even untrue.

I know that I am allowed to listen to my wife's challenges if she needs advice, but I'm not sure what the *halachah* is if she's just venting her anger and frustration to me. **Am I allowed to listen to her grievances about her boss?**

—Eli, Husband



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

- A **Yes**, Eli's wife is allowed to vent to him.
B **No**, it's loшон hora.

What to Do if it Happens to You

- 1 If the grievance is about a co-worker or a negative experience at a store, try to tell the story without using names.
- 2 Look out for the pattern. A couple should analyze their conversations to see if they're transgressing *hilchos shmiras haloshon* and relying on this leniency when it is not necessary.
- 3 Learn *hilchos shmiras haloshon* together. Rav Yehuda Segal, the Manchester Rosh Yeshivah, said that there is tremendous merit in a home where the people learn *hilchos shmiras haloshon*.



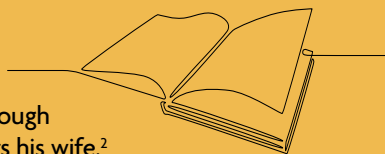
The Halachah

If a wife (or anyone) is under emotional stress and genuinely needs to be heard in order to calm down, it is permitted for her to tell her husband. This is considered a *to'eles*.¹

Although he may be *choshesh*—he may suspect—he may not believe it as true,

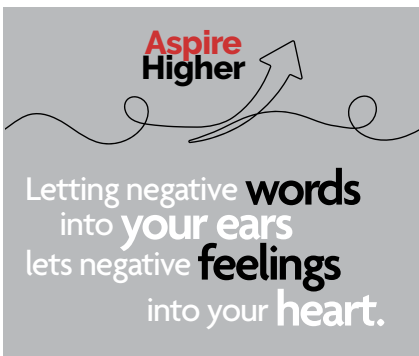
even though he trusts his wife.²

However, if the husband will become furious with his wife's manager, and take action against him or spread loшон hora, the spouse should confide in a close friend or a professional instead.



Sharing Isn't Always Caring

Many couples think that because they're married, they can and must discuss everything, even if it includes loшон hora. But this is not true. Only things that are necessary should be discussed, such as exceptional situations where the speaker is very stressed and needs to speak about his or her difficulties.³



CHOFETZ CHAIM HERITAGE FOUNDATION

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 *she'eilah* 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
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שנראה מעלת חברינו

Change of Plans

When the Rebbe Reb Yechezkel Halberstam of Shinov arrived in town to spend Shabbos, everyone was buzzing with excitement. The great *tzaddik* would daven with them and eat the Shabbos *seudos* together with them! As everyone prepared for Shabbos, people found their way to the Rebbe's quarters to seek blessings and advice.

Early on Friday afternoon, a young man arrived from the neighboring town of Kolbasov. He was getting married the following week, and this Shabbos was his *aufruf*. However, he was far from excited; he was petrified of being called up for an *aliyah* because of his severe stutter.

The Rebbe calmed him down and told him not to worry. Everything would be just fine.

As soon as the young man left, the Rebbe told his assistant to pack up.



"We're going to Kolbasov for Shabbos!"

The assistant was shocked. After all the preparations and excitement in anticipation of the Rebbe's presence, how could they leave town?

It didn't matter. The Rebbe

insisted that they should pack up the food that had been prepared and travel the short distance to Kolbasov.

That Shabbos, when the *chassan* rose to make his blessings over the Torah reading, he had only pronounced the first word when the Rebbe answered loudly and slowly, "*Baruch Hashem Hamevorach l'olam va'ed*." When the *chassan* began the second *brachah*, the Rebbe once again shouted the response. In both instances, the *chassan's* voice was drowned out, and no one heard his stutter. In an instant, his worst fears of humiliation simply evaporated, carried away by the Rebbe's voice.

Take it to the Table

Did you ever have to choose *between* two people who need something from you?
How do you decide who to help?

Word
Power

Gitta Levin opened the envelope tacked to a beautiful bunch of flowers that had just come to her door. It was a thank-you note from Sara Green, a young woman she sometimes saw in shul. "Must be a mistake," Gitta thought.

If You See Something, Say Something

"She must have meant it for a different Levin."

She called Sara Green to let her know about the mix-up, but Sara let her know that there was no mix-up at all.

"One Shabbos, a few weeks ago, you left shul with me after davening," Sara reminded her. "That day was my best friend's *chassan's aufruf*. She is my last

single friend, and I was feeling so lost and alone.

"I decided, that's it, I'm not even dating anymore. I'm almost 35, and if there's someone out there for me, I would have found him by now. Why keep going out and being disappointed? I'll make the best life I can as a single woman.

"But as we walked out together, you smiled at me and said, 'Sara, you look stunning in that suit! Where do you get your impeccable fashion sense? I'm sure your children will be the best-dressed kids on the block!'"

"I was speechless. Not just at the warm compliment, at the fact

that you saw me having a family of my own one day. You awakened the hope in me that I could meet my *bashert* and become a wife and a mother.

"I felt like a new person! That's what your compliment did. And it happened at the right time, because I had gotten a *shidduch* suggestion that I had decided not to accept. The *chizuk* you gave me made me feel it was worth a try.

"So now, I want to give you something to show my appreciation, Mrs. Levin. Because last night, I became a *kallah*! Who knows what might have been if not for your thoughtful, positive words?"



Take it to the Table

How do you feel when someone notices something positive about you and tells you?
How do you feel when no one notices?

Last week's Print and Share raffle winner is:
Husarsky Family
of Brooklyn, NY who won a stunning lucite bentcher set.



Last week's Children's Aderaba Story raffle winner is:
Glancz Family
of Toronto, Ontario 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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DEDICATIONS

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