

Interactive Questions for Your Shabbos Table



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SHABBOS PARSHAS MATOS - MAASEI 5786

ISSUE 93

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

# How Would You Like Some Guests?

**M**y sister Rochy and I are very close, and we come from a close-knit family. We're both going to the Catskills for the summer. Our aunt and uncle are also flying in from L.A. to join us. Rochy and I had originally planned for them to stay in my bungalow because the guest room is nicer there. But I'm worried that it will be too much for us to have them the whole time. Rochy will definitely understand the problem and agree to host them in her bungalow for some of the time.

Can I tell Rochy, "I think it will be too much for us if they stay in our bungalow the whole time"?

—Leah



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

**A No.**  
 It's a lack of *hachnasas orchim*.

**B No.**  
 It's *loshon hora*.

**C Yes,**  
 but it depends how you say it.

## What You Said and What You Meant

Sometimes, the words we say can have two different meanings, and we may be surprised to find out how our words were taken. There is a possibility that Rochy could take the words to mean that their uncle and aunt are not the easiest guests. That would be considered *avak loshon hora*.<sup>1</sup> One sentence, even if it is neutral, can taint how someone views a person or a situation. If Leah implies that their aunt and uncle are a hassle, that would actually be *loshon hora*. But it is perfectly normal to feel that hosting people for a whole summer will be difficult. Leah should be careful with her tone and expression so that her words do not imply anything bad about their aunt and uncle.

In fact, the Chofetz Chaim advises that it's best for Leah speak up now to ensure a peaceful vacation.<sup>2</sup>

She could even phrase her comment in a way that does not refer to them at all, such as "I gave it more thought, and I feel that my family will need some private time." That way she diverts any attention from her aunt and uncle and emphasizes her own family's needs. This is permitted even though it is not the core reason for the change of plan.<sup>3</sup>

**Answer:** The halachah is C.

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

**THE ISADORE AND RUTH GIBBER  
 WORLDWIDE TISHA B'AV EVENT  
 7.23.26**

**HIDDEN**

What if the road from Churban to Geulah begins with a second look?

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1 Sefer Chofetz Chaim, Hilchos Loshon Hora 18  
 2 Sefer Chofetz Chaim, Hilchos Loshon Hora 4:10; 101.  
 3 Sefer Chofetz Chaim, Hilchos Rechilus 18



What Do You Say?

**What's the nicest way for Leah to tell Rochy that she wants to share the hosting responsibilities?**

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*.



Say the good

word power

It was Gavriel's first big deal. Fresh out of law school, he had landed a good job with a large firm, and this morning he was headed to his firm's branch office on the other side of Manhattan with some papers that were vital to the negotiations.

When he got off the subway, he was eager to get to the office and get down to business. He passed by a ragged man standing in the subway station holding out a cup, obviously meant to collect donations.



Heard from Rabbi Chaim Zvi Senter on a Netzor presentation

Gavriel dug into his pocket and pulled out a coin. He dropped it in and continued on his way.

## He Was a Businessman and Didn't Know It

"Mister! Mister!" called the man after him.

Gavriel turned. "You forgot to take your pencil," the man said.

Returning to the man, Gavriel took the pencil, looked the man in the eye, and said, "I like doing business with merchants."

Many years later, now a successful attorney,

Gavriel stopped at a newsstand to buy a paper. The vendor looked at his face and said, "Hey, I know you!"

"I don't think so," Gavriel said. "I don't think we've ever met."

"We have. I'll never forget your face," said the man. "You bought a pencil from me in the subway station, and you called me a merchant. I thought to myself, 'A merchant? Well, yeah, I'm selling pencils. But if I'm a merchant, I could sell pens too. And newspapers. And soda.' So I began expanding my inventory, and now I own newsstands all around the city."

That's the power of a good word. It's the power that Hashem gave us to carry on with His work of creating the world we live in. As the pencil "merchant" showed us, choosing the positive word, the one that says, "I see your value," can literally change someone's life.

See the good

What's the Real Story?

Wednesday morning at 7:20 a.m., the minyan at Beis Shalom V'Shalvah\* was

just starting Shemoneh Esrei. This was a quiet shul, a serious shul, the perfect place for anyone who wanted to really focus on his davening.

So, when Danni

Epstein's cell phone began playing its ringtone—a little riff from a Mozart piece—the sound shot through the room like a firecracker.

## Ring... Ring... Ring... Enough Already!

Danni wasn't fazed. He stood deep in his *tefillos*, bowing at the right place, looking up to Heaven when his heart moved him, as his ringtone repeated eight

times.

The men of the *kehillah*, whose *middos* were as refined as their *avodas*

*Hashem*, never looked his way. They just concentrated harder and kept on going. So did the phone. Every few minutes it started again.

Naftali, who sat a few seats away from Danni, was beginning to simmer inside. He knew Danni was hard of hearing, but he wasn't *that* hard of hearing. Someone was obviously eager to speak to Danni. But why wasn't Danni doing something to stop the racket?

\*All names have been changed.



After davening, Naftali overheard Danni apologizing to another man for the disruption. He explained that his phone is connected to his hearing aids, so he normally hears the ringtone directly in his ears, and no one else can hear it. Before davening, when he tried to shut off his phone, he accidentally disconnected it from his hearing aids instead. Because Danni is hard of hearing, he didn't realize the ringtone was now playing out loud through the phone's speaker. He assumed the ringing was only in his ears, the way it normally is. "I feel so bad," he said. "Everyone was probably distracted. Of course I would have shut it off immediately if I had realized what was going on!"

## Can you Crack the case?

Submitted by Naftali, an Aderaba participant

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