

KORACH
5780

JUNE 26TH
2020

OUR
150TH
EPISODE!

CANDLE
LIGHTING:

SCOTTSDALE 7:23
SAN DIEGO 7:42
HENDERSON 7:43
LAS VEGAS 7:44
IRVINE 7:47
LOS ANGELES 7:50
RENO/ TAHOE 8:12
OAKLAND 8:17

have a Nageela Shabbos

A KID FRIENDLY WEEKLY PUBLICATION OF NAGEELA WEST COAST JOYFULLY JEWISH EXPERIENCES

SEASON 4
EPISODE 29

SLIPPERY KORACH BY RABBI DANI LOCKER



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Did you know the Korach was the secretary of the Treasury in the Egyptian government? But more on that later.

Slippery Steve was a truly talented pickpocket. He could slide behind anyone, bump into them softly, mumble an apology, and walk away smiling with a new wallet, watch, phone, and sometimes even a pair of socks. He was that good.

One of Steve's favorite places to stalk was Krunchy's Kosher Korner- a restaurant whose customers were wealthy businessmen. Steve would sit at the bar sipping some champagne, and when he saw a likely target, he would pass by the table, on his way to the bathroom. A quick slip and a bump. A mumbled apology, and a very full wallet. Business was good. Then Krunchy (the restaurant's owner) caught on.

After a bunch of complaints from his customers, Krunchy realized there must be a pickpocket frequenting his establishment. He played back the security tapes, and was amazed (and angered) by what he saw. Even playing back the video in slow motion, it was hard to see the nimble fingers do their damage. He made up his mind to do something about it. The next time Slippery Steve

walked into the store, and ordered his customary champagne, Krunchy asked, "Would you like some handcuffs with that?"

"What do you mean?"

"I know you've been stealing from my customers. As soon as you walked in to the restaurant today, I called the police. They're on their way, and your quick hands are going to be covered in iron." Satisfied with his clever speech, Krunchy smiled widely.

"Wait!" cried Steve. "It doesn't have to be like this. I promise I have never, ever stolen from you. Your restaurant is safe from me. How about if I give you some cash, and we forget about this whole thing? Remember, I haven't caused you any loss!"

Krunchy frowned at Steve. "What a ridiculous suggestion. You've caused me huge losses! Every time a customer orders their dinner it costs me money. Then when it comes time to pay and their wallet is stolen... who do you think loses?"

While in Egypt, Korach kept the key to all of Pharaoh's treasure houses. When the Jews left Egypt, he took all the treasure with him, which he was criticized for. At first it might be hard to understand what was wrong. After all, he simply took Pharaoh's money. But if we think about Slippery Steve, we realize that Korach actually took money away from the rest of the Jews, as they were the ones who were going to receive all the treasures of Egypt.

Sometimes it's not enough to look at the situation for what it IS, and we need to look at what it CAN BE or WILL BE. Looking ahead and making our decisions with the best future in mind.

**THIS WEEK
WE NEED YOUR HELP**
Help the children get outdoors!
visit nageelawest.org/donations to do your part!

THIS WEEK'S NAGEELA SHABBOS IS SPONSORED IN MEMORY OF
CHAYA BAS AVRAHAM DAVID, WHO WOULD TOLERATE NO LASHON HARA

TO SPONSOR AN EPISODE OF NAGEELA
SHABBOS, PLEASE CONTACT [DLOCKER@NAGEELAWEST.ORG](mailto:dlocker@nageelawest.org)

Balance Transfer

Hi Rabbi,

I hear that if I speak badly about someone I get all of their sins, and if they speak badly about me, they get all of mine. Is this true? How would it work?

Thanks,

Tyler Raedin



**stump the
rabbi**

Stump the Rabbi is a forum where kids can ask ANY Jewish question. Have a question? Please send it in to stump@nageelawest.org

Questions here are real. Names and some wording have been changed.

Dear Ty Raedin,

We take proper speech really, really seriously. As we discussed last week, any talk that is either degrading (negative) or damaging (hurtful) to a person is called Lashon Hara. It's SOOO serious that some people make the claim that you've mentioned in your question. So is it true? Let's take a look.

Joe and Sari don't get along very well. That's because Joe is a pretty horrible person, and Sari is as close to goodness as a person can get.

Sari collects and gives out toys to homeless children in her neighborhood.

Joe likes to grab the toys away and make the kids cry.

Sari studies hard for her test and always does her homework on time.

Joe set his schoolbooks on fire, and his teachers don't even know what he looks like.

Sari rescues injured puppies and cares for them.

Joe uses a BB gun to shoot squirrels in his back yard, for fun.

Joe puts pieces of lego on the floor where he knows people will walk barefoot.

Sari vacuums the rug so that her parents won't have to.

Sari eats Twizzlers.

Joe eats Red Vines.

For years and years, they carry on this way.

Sari doing good deeds and generally being an awesome person; Joe committing crimes against humanity, school supplies and food. Now after many years, they both pass away on the same day, and are standing next to each other at the gates of heaven (with appropriate social distancing, of course).



If you hear someone speaking negatively about you and you DON'T hit back, you've just gained a tremendous merit,

"Sari!" booms the angel in charge. "You lived a sinful and selfish life. You were cruel and uncaring."

"There must be some mistake!" wails Sari. "I spent my life doing good. Was there a glitch in the system or something?"

The angel checks his iPad and scrolls through the details. "Oh," he says. "I see what happened. You did lead a good life. But just once, in 30 years of knowing Joe, you spoke negatively about him. What you said was true, but it was mean, and because of that, you now own all of the things that he did. Have a pleasant afterlife!"

Ummm.

Does that sound like it makes sense to you?

Yeah. No. Me neither.

So is it fake news? Not really. The concept of transferring the merits and sins due to Lashon Hara is sourced in pretty early, important works like the Zohar and the Maggid Meisharim (names of holy books, in case you were wondering). So what does it mean?

There are a couple of opinions. Some opinions believe that this statement is not literal. You don't actually lose or gain your merits. If you never ate a pork, then when you get 'upstairs' they won't say you did. What it means (according to this opinion, advanced by Rabbi E. Dessler) is that there's a general exchange of merit. Meaning, if I speak LH about you, then I lose some of my heavenly 'bank credit', and you gain some bank credit because you've suffered. You don't get specific mitzvos and aveiros, but a general flow and exchange of credit.

The Chofetz Chaim (seemingly supported by Chovos Halevavos) takes it more literally. This approach seems to feel that you could actually take ownership of something you did not do. However, I would like to suggest that it's very far from being 'all or nothing.' Lashon Hara is serious enough that if Sari consistently, over the course of her lifetime, spoke negatively about Joe ALL THE TIME, then she would end up with the bill for a lot of Joe's negative actions. Every time she speaks, a bit gets

chipped off of Joe's bill and goes to her. It's so incredibly important that we teach ourselves to only speak positively (or just don't speak about people at all), because it would be a real shame to work hard our whole lives and lose some (or a lot) of what we've gained.

On a positive note, if you hear someone speaking negatively about you and you DON'T hit back, you've just gained a tremendous merit, and you've recovered some of your own debt.

Have a Nageela Shabbos,

the Rabbi.



Who complained when Moses destroyed the golden calf?

Cow-Rach!

OUCH! GROAN!

got a better joke? Email it to dlocker@nageelawest.org

DEEP THOUGHTS

WHAT DOES CHEESE SAY WHEN IT GETS ITS PICTURE TAKEN?

HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

Happy Birthday to family members who have celebrated recently:

- Harrison Clayton
- Eve Moga
- Miracle Moga
- Avi Gewirtz
- Netanel Gazala
- Aaron Polonsky
- Rabbi Shua Rose



TO MIRACLE AND eve MOGA WHO ARE CELEBRATING THEIR BAT MITZVAHS!

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We're extremely excited

to announce our revamped overnight IN PERSON camp, starting next week! If you know someone who could use a great Jewish summer program, please contact us for registration, rates and info on our COVID-19 safety protocols.

Mazel Tov
מזל טוב

To the Naiman family upon the birth of a baby girl!

QUICK FIX

It doesn't get much better than Moses, right? I mean, he's the ultimate leader. He's literally saved the entire Jewish nation many, many times, and he's their teacher, guide, advisor and advocste. Now this dud Korach (a cousin of Moses) started a rebellion. Korach gets obliterated. The ground literally opens up to swallow him. His followers get burned by a heavenly fire. Moses is proven right and everyone is happy, right?

Nope!

The very next day, pretty much everyone comes complaining to Moses that he has used disproportionate force. He caused people to die. Ahhhh! What does Moses do? He prays for the people so that God won't be too angry at them.

Lesson 1: No matter how many times you prove someone wrong, or how well you do it, they'll always find a way to challenge you.

Lesson 2: No matter how many times people try to hurt you, take a lesson from Moses. We want the people to change their thoughts and actions. We don't people to get hurt, even if they have hurt us.

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DAYS TO CAMP
NAGEELA WEST
GIRLS SESSION

DAYS TO CAMP
NAGEELA WEST
BOYS SESSION

Find out about our summer 2020 and see photos from GT2019 at
nageelawest.org



Nageela West breaks the mold of old school Jewish outreach by providing out-of-the-box social and educational programs for Jewish children across the west coast. Through

afterschool activities, weekend retreats and our signature summer camp, we engage elementary and middle school children in a fun and meaningful experience.

Our "questions encouraged" mindset makes Nageela a comfortable learning and growing environment for Jewish children of all backgrounds.

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