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**FOOD FOR
THOUGHT
TO SPARK
CONVERSATION**

SHABBOS MENU

PART OF THE CCHF SHABBOS TABLE MACHSOM L'FI PROGRAM • SHABBOS PARSHAS SHOFTIM 5780 • ISSUE 204

IF YOU CATCH MY DRIFT

You didn't exactly say something negative. Maybe you implied it, but on the other hand, you said it in front of three other people. You're obviously not trying to keep your comment a secret from the subject. Does that make your comment permissible?

T H E

DILEMMA

A woman was standing with a small group of other women, all waiting for the door to open at a children's clothing store. The sign said "Hours: 10 a.m. to 6 p.m." and the woman's watch said 10:13.

"I need to return this dress and get to work by 11," the woman said. "A store should be open when it says it will be open."

"Yeah, well, I know the manager. She's been my neighbor for years," said another woman. "And all I can say is that there are a lot of things she does better than managing and organizing. She's really a doll, but I'm surprised she's not in some other, more creative line of work."

Did this woman speak loshon hora?

T H E

HALACHAH

Although her words might seem ambiguous, she was in fact stating a derogatory opinion: that the store manager was not suited to her job. Even though her words were couched in positive expressions and said in front of three people, they were loshon hora.

*Sefer Chofetz Chaim,
Hilchos Loshon Hora, Klal 2:2*



Reviewed by Rabbi Moshe Mordechai Lowy. For discussion only; actual halachic decisions should be made by a rav or halachic expert on a case-by-case basis.

PARTICIPANTS SPEAK

*Thank you so much!
These newsletters are wonderful
and really add depth to our
Shabbos meals.*

Rachel Deutsch
Chicago, Illinois

CHICAGO

FOR QUESTIONS AND COMMENTS, EMAIL

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*"Peace is essential for the
common good
of mankind,
which (by nature) needs
relationships
and friends."*

– Akeidah, Bamidbar
6:24, Shaar 74

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MALKA BREINDEL A" H BAS SHMUEL FISHEL YLCH" T

Like many families in Eretz Yisrael, the Goodman family was just scraping by. They had what they needed to live, but extras were out of the question. The family had never even eaten together in a restaurant.

One day, the parents and their eight children embarked in a family trip to Teveria. Along the way, one of the children needed to use a bathroom. The father pulled over to a restaurant and brought his son inside. There he encountered the maître d', whose job was to seat customers as they arrived. She graciously directed them to the rest room.

When the father and son emerged from the rest room, the owner of the restaurant spotted them.

"What are you doing to me?" he screamed at the father. "I have a business to run here! It's not a public facility."

"Of course!" the father responded. "We came here to eat."

The owner changed his tune. "I'm so sorry," he answered. "Welcome, welcome. Enjoy your meal."

The son was then dispatched to the car to inform the rest of the family that for the first time in Goodman history, they would be having a family meal in a restaurant. Soon the shocked but delighted troupe came through the door and settled at a large table. The waiter brought the menu and the father, absorbing the shock of the prices listed, ordered lunch for the family.

When the meal was over, the next surprise arrived. The waiter brought a tray filled with a wide variety of sumptuous desserts. "I didn't order this," Mr. Goodman told him. "Please take it back." But the waiter replied that it was on the house, and if he had any questions, he should ask the maître d'.



"JUST DESSERTS"

When the father found the maître d', she had tears in her eyes.

"I saw what you did for me," she said.

"I heard the owner scream at you and I know you had no intention of eating here. You brought your whole family in and ordered lunch for them just to prevent me from getting into trouble for letting you use the rest room. No one has ever done anything like that for me. The desserts are on the house. It's the least I can do!"

Thus the Goodmans' restaurant meal became quite the memorable event, topped by desserts the children had never even dreamed of. But that wasn't the last surprise. When the waiter brought the bill to Mr. Goodman, he braced himself. It would all have to be charged to his credit card, of

sage advice

THIRTY-SIX HOURS OF SILENCE

Mishpacha Magazine ran a story in July 2020 about a pair of Breslov *baalei teshuvah* who had been part of the film industry before becoming religious; they took up their craft once again in order to unite estranged families. Their idea was to create a documentary that would follow the progress of non-religious Jews who wanted to reunite with a family member who had become religious.

Because many non-religious families see such a transformation as rejection, many families in Israel are torn apart this way. The two Breslovers devised a plan that would pair the non-religious person with a mentor, who would help him or her find common ground for reconciliation. After receiving a great deal of advice and endorsements from leading Torah figures, they embarked on their project.

One key feature of the plan was for the non-religious relative, along with the mentor, to spend 36 hours immersed in *chareidi* society. That meant attending shul and *shiurim* for the men, and for women, observing the day-to-day functioning of large households. And for those 36 hours, they were to ask no questions, register no complaints, pose no arguments. Just watch, listen and learn. The project brought many families back together, and the organizers believe that the 36 hours of silent observation paved the way to *shalom*. People had to silence their own perspective and take the time to really see the other side. With time, the humanity of the *chareidi* families emerged. Their humor, their love, their kindness and their flaws as well fell into perspective. It takes time. It takes silence. And it works.

TALK ABOUT IT


Has your point of view ever changed when you got to know someone better?

course, and who knew how long it would take for him to pay for it? He looked down at the total. The number was crossed out, and above it was written, "This restaurant doesn't charge angels."

TALK ABOUT IT

What do you think Mr. Goodman was thinking when the owner started screaming at him?

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