



SHABBOS MENU

PART OF THE CCHF SHABBOS TABLE MACHSOM L'FI PROGRAM • SHABBOS PARSHAS SHEMOS 5784 • ISSUE 372

HE'S NOT TAKING ANY CHANCES

You know you're not allowed to interfere with a contract that's already been sealed, but you want to give your friend a heads-up about some potential problems likely to develop with the other party to the deal. May you do so if you know that he's going to try to back out or act against the other party?

T H E

DILEMMA

Ephraim, a diamond dealer, felt bad for his friend Shaul, who had lost his job and couldn't find a new one. Shaul explained that companies considered him "overqualified," since he was middle-aged and had many years of management experience.

"Look, I just got a nice lot of diamonds," Ephraim told Shaul. "Why don't you be my broker? You'll sell them and take a commission. It's potentially a lot of money!"

Shaul accepted the offer and to "keep things kosher," the two men signed an agreement. Later, Ephraim told a mutual friend that Shaul was going to work for him. The friend, who often advised Ephraim and had his trust, wanted Ephraim to know that Shaul had lost his job because he was in constant conflict with his boss.

The friend knows that if Ephraim hears this, he will renege on the agreement, so as not to be forced to deal with a difficult situation on a daily basis. May the friend warn Ephraim?



T H E

HALACHAH

Since the friend is not permitted to convey information that will be used to harm Shaul, and he knows that Ephraim will act on the information, he is not permitted to convey it. This is because when someone trusts another person to the extent that his word is accepted as truth, or there is corroborating evidence that supports the information, it may not be related if the damage that would result from relating the information may exceed that which a *beis din* would impose based on the testimony of two witnesses.

Sefer Chofetz Chaim, Hilchos Rechilus 9:5

PARTICIPANTS SPEAK

Thanks for a great program! I now know many more halachos of what may be said and what shouldn't be said. I am more sensitive to hilchos loshon hora in general.

Clarity Calls

Visit cchf.global/claritycalls to sign up for this free program.

FOR QUESTIONS AND COMMENTS, EMAIL

Shabbosmenu@cchfglobal.org

"With each

word

a person speaks to another, he is providing

paint

for that person's self-portrait."

- Positive Word Power, Day 5

How often do we look but fail to see? How often do we see but fail to inquire? So many people in our lives have needs that we can fulfill if we only take the time to notice. We learn this from Moshe Rabbeinu, who turned to look at the burning bush and wondered why it was the way it was. In doing so, he took the first step toward bringing redemption to the entire nation. We too can merit great things when we “turn to look,” as this story illustrates: *Dr. Joseph Rosenblatt is a top oncologist who lives with his wife in Florida. One day, Mrs. Rosenblatt was driving along a highway when she noticed, two lanes over, an old wreck of a car that had a “for sale” sign on the window.*

Although she certainly had no interest in the car, she had an interest in the driver. She wondered why he was selling such a car. Something compelled her to find out. She called the number and the driver answered.

“I’m two lanes over from you,” she told the man, “and I see that your car is for sale. Can I ask you why you’re selling it?”

Although he owed no one an answer, the man opened up immediately. Tearfully, he told Mrs. Rosenblatt about his young wife who had become seriously ill. “We came here from South America because everyone told us that the only doctor who could save her is Dr. Joseph Rosenblatt. But we don’t have insurance to pay him, so I’m selling the car to try to raise some money.”

Mrs. Rosenblatt listened in stunned silence. “Joseph Rosenblatt is my husband,” she told the man. “Go right now, pick up your wife, and

“WHAT’S THAT ABOUT?”

take her to the hospital. I’ll come to the hospital, and my husband will come to meet you. He will treat your wife for free.”

Dr. Rosenblatt treated the young wife and merited to be Hashem’s shaliach to heal her from her illness.

The amazing *hashgachah pratit* of this story is clear. The driver had to be on the road at the same time as Mrs. Rosenblatt. His “for sale” sign had to be in her line of vision. But the catalyst for those pieces to come together into a miracle was Mrs. Rosenblatt’s own choice to look around, notice something unusual and wonder, “What is that about?”

sage advice



**PART OF A SERIES
ON BEING NOSEI B'OL**

WEAVING OURSELVES TOGETHER

Imagine just one instance of someone acting toward a fellow Jew with the middah of nosei b’ol chaveiro: A girl applies to seminary and doesn’t get it in to the one her friends are going to. Her teacher knows that this particular seminary wouldn’t have been good for her, but she also sees that the girl is suffering. The teacher finds a private moment to talk to the girl, listening as she expresses her disappointment and shame. The girl notices that the teacher’s eyes are tearing up as she listens. “Well, I guess Hashem knows what He’s doing,” the girl says. “I’ll get in where I’m supposed to be. It’s just kind of hard right now.”

Because the teacher was hurting along with her student, the student actually feels that she has to be encouraging. Being heard and understood has given her courage to face the situation. She feels Hashem’s goodness once again.

Now imagine that all Jews connected to each other with this willingness to share the burden. No one would feel alone in his suffering. Klal Yisrael would be woven together in a beautiful tapestry of care and compassion. And that would make the world a different place.

When the *middah of nosei b’ol im chaveiro* thrives among the Jewish people, the world thrives. This is because when we care about each other, we build *achdus* in Klal Yisrael. We become linked to one another, and according to Rav Chaim Mintz (*Malbim, Parashas Terumah*) this creates an inviting environment for the *Shechinah*. Therefore, Hashem’s presence is revealed to a greater extent, and from that emanates all the *brachah*, healing, and peace we long for.

TALK ABOUT IT

What are the ingredients of *nosei b’ol im chaveiro*? How can we build it in ourselves if it’s not part of our natural personality?



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TALK ABOUT IT

How can this idea help us when people in our lives are not behaving in their usual friendly manner?

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