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KID FRIENDLY TORAH MAGAZINE
A PROJECT OF NAGEELA WEST COAST,
JOYFULLY JEWISH EXPERIENCES

SEASON 9, EPISODE 16

PARSHAS MISHPATIM 5785



Torat Scene-A-Eye

This features an AI generated picture that has numerous hints to the weekly parsha. This week's is about Parshas Mishpatim

Disclaimer: These AI generated images are NOT meant to portray actual people or events from the Torah. They are simply hints to get you thinking.

DVAR TORAH

SNEAKY SNAKY

Can you fill in the blank?

"Someone who _____, it's as if he did all the evil and the sins in the world."

What do you think should be in there? I mean, something really, really, really bad, clearly.

How about, lending money with interest.

Why is that so bad? Ultimately, lending money is a kindness. True, lending interest free is massively better, it's an act of true altruistic kindness, but lending money with interest still helps people in a real way. Why is it labeled by the Midrash as if he did all the sins in the world?

CONTINUED ▼

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Deep Thoughts

Why are USB inputs never labeled top and bottom?



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DVAR

CONTINUED

.....

The term the Torah uses for lending money with interest is NESHECH, which literally means biting. It is compared to a snake bite. It's sneaky, underhanded and stealthy.

The problem with neshech is that it's a wolf dressed up in sheep's clothing. Or Red Vines pretending to be Twizzlers, or rap pretending to be music.

When evil is overt, honest and brutal, it's still evil, but at least it's clear and easy to avoid. However, sometimes evil dresses itself up in pretty clothes and pretends to be a mitzvah. There are many examples of this, and it's insidious.

Neshech is one of these. Few mitzvos are greater than lending money to someone in need. Loans can help someone who is struggling to get back on their feet without the embarrassment that often comes along with receiving charity. It's precisely because lending is such a great benefit to society that it's perversion is so rotten. Lending for profit, and the industry of



loan

sharking, foreclosing, compounded interest- these practices can end up having devastating effects, while masquerading as kindness.

In the words of Abraham Lincoln, "It is more despotic than monarchy, more insolent than autocracy, more selfish than bureaucracy."



ANSWER ON PAGE 4

Question of the Week

.....
Where do we learn the concept of having gratitude to animals?



LOLZ

.....
I bought the world's worst thesaurus. Not only is it terrible, it's also terrible.

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PARSHAL PARSHA

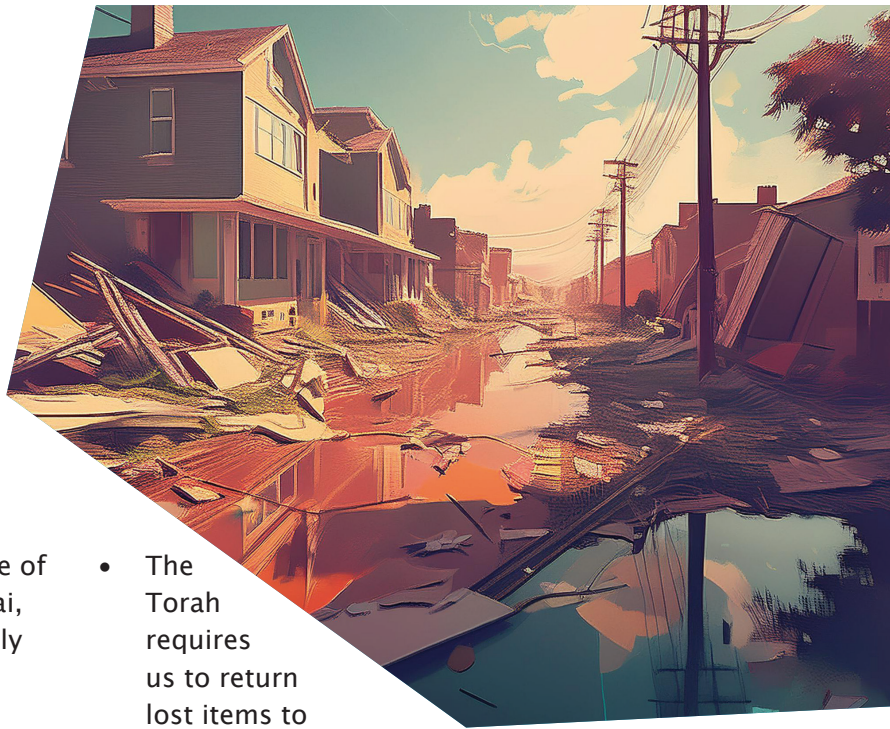
a brief summary of the weekly
Torah parshon

PARSHAS MISHPATIM-

SO NOW WE HAVE A TORAH.
WHAT DO WE DO WITH IT?

.....

- Immediately after we learn about the episode of the Jewish people receiving the Torah at Sinai, the Torah records many detailed rules, mostly regarding other people and their property
- A Jew can become a slave to another Jew, but only for a period of 6 years. If he wants to stay longer, there's a ceremony which involves a doorpost and an ear piercing, and then he stays enslaved longer
- A bunch of rules are given describing different penalties for killing someone, for accidental murder or for injuring another person. The Torah gives the details of what happens when one person's property damages someone else's. Like if your pet potato burns down someone's pineapple. Or if your ostrich gores someone else's armadillo. The Torah uses different examples, but you get the idea. Also, arson, theft and other delicious desserts
- Who watches the watchmen? The Torah does, telling us the responsibilities of people who are hired or who volunteer to watch stuff.
- The Torah requires us to return lost items to their owners, if we can figure out who they belong to. We're also obligated to help people unload their donkeys or Uhauls, even if we don't like the person. That Uhaul never did anything to you!
- The Torah then returns to the story of Mount Sinai, describing Moses' trip up the mountain and some of the preparations the nation undertook
- It is clearly described that the Jewish nation saw the presence of God
- Moses goes up the mountain where he stays for 40 days and 40 nights. God tells Moses that He will give him two stone tablets, and the Torah
- Moses puts Aaron (his brother) and Chur (his nephew) in charge until he gets back



Torat Scene-A-Eye Explained

This week's Parsha describes many laws of property and business. There are laws of property damage, slavery, honest business. Mount Sinai is discussed, and Aharon and Chur are appointed as Moshe's surrogates in his absence.



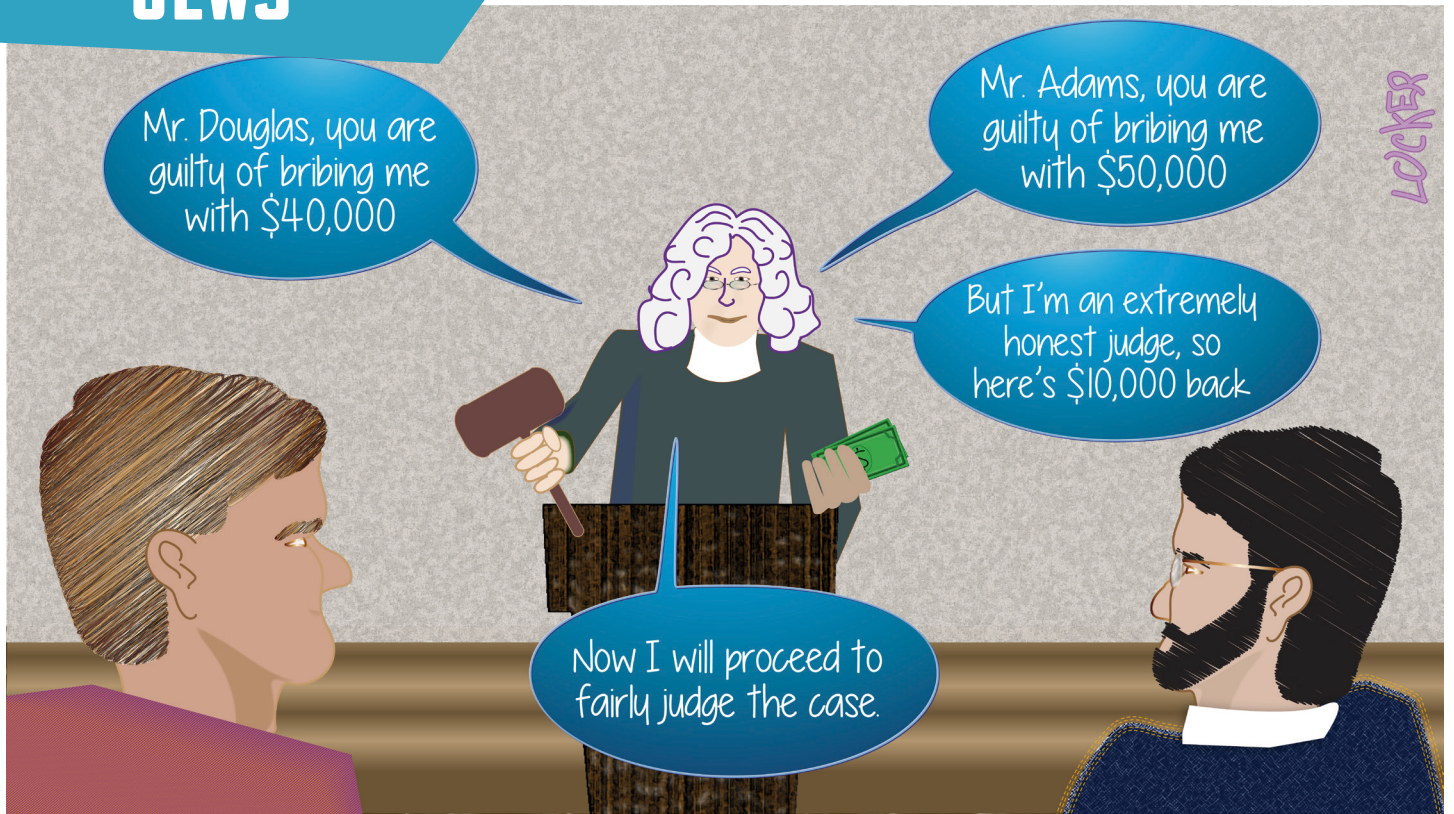
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NA-NA-NAGEELA



How much do you love
being Jewish?



PICKLE JEWS



Mazel Tov!

Heartfelt Mazel tov to ELLIOT ZARGARI upon your Bar Mitzvah!



Answer of the Week

Since the dogs were silent when we left Egypt, the Torah tells us to give them the scraps of meat that aren't Kosher.



Happy Birthdays!

Tehilla Gross
Shane Kashani
Gideon Peters
Bennett Warnick
Abigail Rivera

Sam Hodara
Natalie Chowaiki
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