

a kid friendly publication of Nageela West (oast Joyfully Jewish Experiences



Orange and Purple

by Rabbi Dani Locker

Biggie and Iggy were twin brothers who did everything together. They shared a crib (although Iggy had the purple side, and Biggie stayed in the orange part), they shared birthday cakes (two-toned, of course) and they shared a love of candy.

When they graduated high school, they got a job together, working at the candy factory.

Iggy spent his money on candy, mostly cotton candy. Mostly purple.

Whenever the brothers got together, Iggie's teeth seemed stained purple.

Biggie on the other hand, only treated himself to orange cotton candy (his favorite) once in a while, and saved his money carefully. While they were very similar on the surface (except for the teeth, and a slight pur-

ple tinge to Iggy's eyelids), they acted in completely different ways with regard to their slush funds.

10 years later, Iggy is just getting started on his dental work, trying to figure out how to pay for new teeth...

Biggie has just bought the factory with the money he's saved.

The lesson is simple (orange is better than purple). But what does it have to with our parsha or Jewish values?

The mitzvah of Sefiras Ha'omer is a daily ritual this time of year. We count each of the 49 days from the second seder of Passover to the mountainous climax of Shavuos. Yet the Torah throws in a word that is out of

Candle lighting

Honolulu 6:43 Scottsdale 7:01 Henderson 7:19 Las Vegas 7:20 San Diego 7:21 Irvine 7:25 Los Angeles 7:28 Reno 7:46 Oakland 7:52 Park City 8:16

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place. The word is

'temimos- complete [weeks].'

We can look at each day as its own goal, in which case we might be tempted to make selfish, short term decisions. The Torah

AS A COMPLETE PACKAGE

reminds us to look at the world as temimos- a complete package. If we look at the bigger picture and see the totality of our lives in this world and the next, we're more likely to grow

and gain spiritual wealth (along the lines of Biggie), instead of taking Iggy's path

LOOK AT THE WORLD and remaining poor(ple).

continued from page 1

INFO SESSION



DO YOU KNOW A JEWISH MIDDLE SCHOOLER ANYWHERE ON THE WEST COAST WHO WANTS TO BE INVOLVED IN JEWISH LEADERSHIP? WE HAVE MANY OPPORTUNI-TIES. PLEASE CONTACT US!



PICKL& JEWS

GALACTICALLY SYNDICATED COMIC STRIP

by Dani Locker, 2022



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.

Note: We call this 'Stump The Rabbi' for fun, but that's not really the point. The goal is to learn something important in an interesting way.

#204 Enlighten Me

Hi Rabbi,

I've heard that the Jews are supposed to be a "Light unto the Nations." What does that even mean? Also, I know that Jews are not into 'spreading the light' like some other religions. How can we be a light unto the nations if we keep it to ourselves?

Thanks,

Thomas Ben Edward Dear Thomas, Ed's Son,

This is a question that bothers a lot of people. Many religions believe in sending out missionaries to convert people to their religions. In fact, do you know what a missionary's favorite type of car is? A'convertible, of course. Jews don't missionize. We are so not into missionizing that we attempt to actively discourage people from converting to Judaism, and we generally don't teach Torah to people who aren't Jewish. Yet, there are a bunch of Biblical quotes (most notably from Isaiah) that say we are supposed to be the 'light unto the nations.'

Stump the Rabbi

This all boils down to understanding the way to have an impact on the world. There's a famous line which has been quoted, misquoted, attributed, reattributed

and copied and pasted who-knows-

how-many times. I haven't found an authoritative version or a clear answer on who it came from but it goes something like this:

When I was a young man, I wanted to change the world.

I found it was difficult to change the world, so I tried to change my nation.

When I found I couldn't change the nation, I began to focus on my town. I couldn't change the town and as an older man, I tried to change my family.

Now, as an old man, I realize the only thing I can change is myself, and suddenly I realize that if long ago I had changed myself, I could have made an impact on my family. My family and I could have made an impact on our town. Their impact could have changed the nation and I could indeed have changed the world.

Our job is not to be a light unto the nations by trying to shine a light directly at them, rather it's our job

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4

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5 8

DAYS TO CAMP NAGEELA WEST BOYS SESSION

Find out about our summer 2022 and see photos from 2021 at nageelawest.org to make sure our light is burning as brightly as possible, and eventually, people seeing that light want to get close to it or copy it.

AND WE ARE! Take a look at the world. Yes, there are SERIOUS issues. Yet the basic values of kindness, honesty, the worth of life, and the all-important monotheism exist in the vast majority of the planet. Those are NOT values that were popular 3,000 years ago. It was the Jewish commitment to these values and the world seeing us, at center stage (the eyes of the world are always upon Israel), live dedicated to these values that has made such a tremendous impact upon history. So, no, we don't knock on doors in shirts and ties, spreading the light. But make no mistake, every time a

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HAPPY BI<mark>RTHDAY</mark>!

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Jew acts according to the pure and beautiful teachings of the Torah, we're succeeding at our mission as a light to the nations.

Have a Nageela Shabbos,

the Rabbi

ASK MORE QUESTIONS AT STUMP@NAGEELAWEST.ORG

VESTION OF THE WEEK

Because the mitzvah of Sefiras Ha'omer might be one continuous, 7 week mitzvah, one who converts to Judaism during seforah does NOT (usually) make a bracha.

In what scenario can someone who converts during sefirah count WITH a bracha?

NO FREEBIES

If you want the answer, you'll have to ask!



A Racoon, a badger and a weasel crawl into a bar somewhere in the midwest.

"What can I get you?" asks the bartender.

The Racoon and the badger both say, "Inice."

"And you?" he asks, looking toward the third guest.

"Pop," goes the weasel.

OUCH! GROAN! Why do bad jokes happen to good people? FInd a better joke. Send it to dlocker@nageelawest.org





