

WE'RE BAAAACK!

SEASON 8, EPISODE 32
VAESCHANAN 5784

HAVE A

NAGEELA SHABBOS

A Kid Friendly Torah Magazine by Nageela West Coast

DVAR TORAH

He Made me Do it!
by Rabbi Dani Locker

"He made me do it! He made me do it!"

Principal Wilson straightened his tie and cleared his throat. "Julian," he began softly. "Are you saying that Murray made you punch him? Now why would he do that?"

Julian bobbed his head excitedly. "Yes Mister Wilson. That's right. He made me do it. On account of him smellin' bad. He smelled bad and it got me angry and I had to do it."

"So let me get this straight," The principal continued in a monotone. "You don't like the way Murray smells, so you chose to hit him because of it?"

"No. I didn't hit him. I punched him. It's different."

"So you chose to punch him..."

"No, sir. He made me punch him. It's like I said sir. It's his fault. Because he uses too much Axe."

Let's pause for station identification. At this point as the principal, parent or police officer witnessing this conversation, how many of us

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HIS FAULT

HER FAULT

THEIR FAULT

NOT ME

would buy Julian's 'excuse' that Murray made him do it? None of us, hopefully. (Then again, this publication is geared toward middle school kids, so hey guys, if you've got Julian's back, no worries.) If someone makes a clear mistake, the mature thing is to own up to what they've done and certainly not to play the blame game.

"She started."

"It's his fault."

"You were looking at me funny!"

"Everybody does it!"

"Do you think youuuu're soooo perfect?"

Owning up to what we've done is a super important lesson to learn. SO it would seem mighty unlikely that the great leader Moses would blame others for his mistakes, right?

Right?

In the beginning of this week's Torah portion, Moses tells the Jewish people, "God blamed me because of you." Let's go and get some background, shall we? Yes indeedy.

continued on two, too.

won from page one

The people were thirsty. God told Moses to speak to a rock. Because when people are thirsty, that's what you do, isn't it? Well, Moses tried speaking to the rock. He spoke and cajoled, talked and pleaded. But water was not forthcoming. The people kept demanding water and the water wasn't coming. Under that pressure, Moses hit the rock instead of speaking to it. For someone like Moses, this was considered a major no-no. As punishment, he was not allowed to enter the land of Israel.

Now, as Moses is recapping the story, he tells the people, "God blamed me because of you." Rashi explains Moses meant "You got me angry." Does this sound familiar? "He made me do it!" Of course, the holy, humble and patient Moses is not acting immature or petty. So what is going on? Why is Moses blaming the Jews for his mistake? Doesn't that seem like not taking responsibility for your actions?

I don't think Moses is blaming the Jewish people for his mistake. He's giving them credit for it!

Huh?

Let's unpack this. What did Moses do wrong? What was the big deal about hitting the rock instead of speaking to it? The Torah tells us the problem was that it lessened the awesome spectacle. It made God's miracle

somewhat less impressive. Hitting a rock and having water come out is fairly impressive, but we've all seen that magic trick. There's a hidden water balloon or something. Speaking to the rock and having the water come out... now that is more impressive. When we get a chance to publicize God's awesomeness even before a small crowd, that's amazing. However, when that can be done in front of a large group of Jews, that's even better. Moses is telling the people, had I made my mistake in front of a small crowd, that would not have been a big deal. But you guys were ALL there. You wanted to see God's miracles and I deprived you. God blamed me BECAUSE OF YOU. Because your presence made my act so much more biggerer (it's a real word, I promisseses).

We're used to thinking in terms of celebrities and normal people. Some of us are ordinary and some are special. The world is made for people like Moses, like Abraham, like Miriam. Yet Moses is sharing with us something so wonderful and profound. Even the actions of a Moses are dependent upon everyone else. Who gives significance and meaning to the actions of Moses? The ordinary people who are watching.



In reality, no one person is more special than another. The situations we find ourselves in can make our actions more special. Let's consider that before we dismiss ourselves as unimportant and realize that we actually have the ability to make it or break it.

H2iN & DaNiSH

The question isn't "What is the Danish?"

The question is "What isn't?"

Okay, for you newbies, the Danish is a scavenger hunt we've been doing in Nageela for over 20 years. It's a little weird so try to follow along. Each week we'll give a clue to an actual item you're likely to find in your home, school, synagogue or pickle factory. You figure out the clue, bring me the item (in this case, bringing me the item means sending a photo or video after Shabbos to dlocker@nageelawest.org with DANISH in the subject). In Danish you can get MORE POINTS FOR THE WRONG ANSWER than for the right answer. It all depends on the level of creativity, genius and sheer silliness you employ. All good answers will be featured in next week's Nageela Shabbos. Best answers get prizes!

THIS WEEK'S CLUE: PERSPECTIVE HALVES

Rules reminder:

- Only one item per clue and one clue per item
- Item must be allowed to be handled on Shabbos
- Item may not be a human being



StumptheRabbi

is a forum where kids can

ask ANY Jewish question.

Have a question? Please send it in to stump@nageelawest.org

(Most) questions here are real. Names and some wording have been changed.

Note & Disclaimer: 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.

The answers here should not be taken as halachic decisions. You should always ask a competent Rabbi personally.

**#264
Nytrokjaz
utujaz
glointifh**

**stump the
rabbi**

Hi Rabbi,

You might think this is weird but I made up my own language. It's similar to Elvish, but it is unique, and I can communicate with my brother in it. At camp I heard you say that prayers can be in any language. Am I allowed to pray in my own language?

Thanks

Jeldunar the Insightful

Dear Jeldunar,

Can I call you Jelly? Here's my answer:

Ar Mighblight gishleve tzek lookimookie. Splu`hfybl axaxw potrievindh o'roy'tsej. Nytrokjaz utujaz glointifh r frlnendet veres acdeta o'roy'tsej!

I hope that answers your question. Have a Nageela Shabbos.

What? No? Did I get your language wrong? Alright, I thought it was worth a shot. There are two reasons my previous paragraph didn't work as communication. First of all, because you didn't understand what I wrote. Communication requires the understanding of the words on both ends. The second reason is because it simply isn't a language.

When it comes to God, the first reason is never gonna be a problem. If you understand it, God understands it. So then in theory, even a totally made up language should be totally OK as a method of prayer to God. This Talmud states (Sotah 32a) that prayer is one of those things that can be said in any language. The question is, what constitutes a language? If two people can communicate through a made up



does that count?

According to the Biur Halacha (a work on Jewish law written by the author of the Chofetz Chaim), it's not just understanding between people that constitutes a language. It has to be accepted on a local level as a language. So yes, God understands you even if you speak in a language that isn't a language. However, unless you can get the government to officially accept it as a local language, and get a bunch of people to speak it, it would not officially constitute a language in Jewish law, and it would not be an effective way to pray. If God understands, then why is it not OK to pray in a fake language? Perhaps because we need to recognize that God is worthy of great respect. He is quite permissive in allowing many languages, but speaking in something that isn't a language at all may not be giving the proper respect.

As a reminder, even with established languages, one should only pray with one of them if they understand that language well, and it's always better in the holy language of Hebrew.

Have a Nageela Shabbos,

The Rabbi

305

DAYS UNTIL
CNW GIRLS
2025

333

DAYS UNTIL
CNW BOYS
2025

Don't get tooo excited, these are just tentative dates.

OKAY, get CRAZZZZY EXCITED!!!! YEAH!!!!

BOARDS FORMING
 7TH AND 8TH GRADERS FROM ANYWHERE ON THE WEST COAST CAN NOW APPLY TO JOIN OUR LOCAL AND REGIONAL BOARDS TO GET INVOLVED AND REALLY HELP YOUR PEERS CONNECT JEWISHLY!

See all 170 Selfie Torah videos on YouTube!
 Visit youtube.com/@rabbilocker



We still need YOUR help to fund the amazing, life-changing experience that is Camp Nageela West!
 Please visit causematch.com/cnw24 to give! Every bit really does help.




CONNECTIONS THAT LAST FOREVER

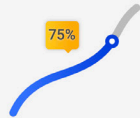
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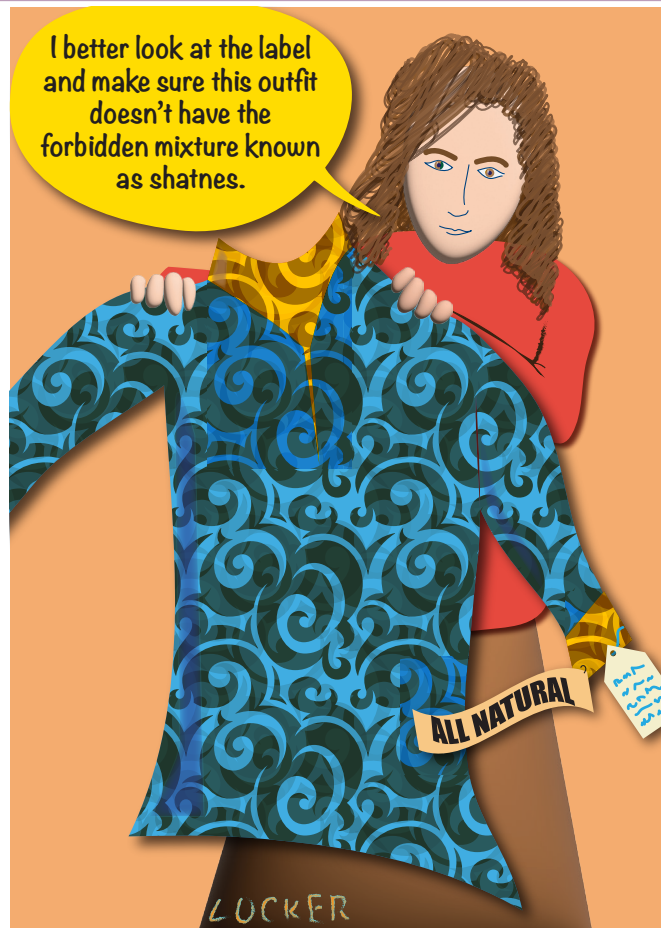
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MAZAL TOV!!!

TO NAGEELA CAMPER
BILL VISNER
 UPON CELEBRATING HIS BAR MITZVAH WITH US IN CAMP THIS SUMMER!

PICKLE JEWS
 GALACTICALLY SYNDICATED COMIC STRIP

by Dani Locker, 2024



LOCKER

PARTIAL PARTIA

The Torah is the Jewish book of everything. For thousands of years, we've been dividing the Torah into smaller bitesized portions, each called a 'Sidra' or 'Parsha' and reading a portion or two each Shabbos. Most of our Dvar Torah articles are based on the weekly Parsha, so we're including this as a weekly segment, giving bullet points of what happens in the Parsha of the week. With some side comments thrown in. Enjoy and please give us feedback!

Partial Partia - Vaeschanan Remembering some reminders

- Moses continues recapping the experience of the Jewish people through forty years in the desert
- Moses recalls how by hitting the rock, he had foregone his ability to enter the land of Israel. G-d commands Moses to climb to a high viewpoint and gaze upon the land of Israel, then commands Joshua to take over
- Moses retells what it was like to stand at the foot of Mount Sinai and experience the awesome sights and sounds (sometimes seeing the sounds and hearing the sights) of God's revelation
- Moses repeats the 'Ten Statements' with a few variations from the first time they are recorded. The sages tell us that in God's amazing power, He spoke both versions at the same time
- The Jewish national anthem is read. No, not Hatikvah. The actual national mission statement of the Jewish people, AKA the Shema. It comes along with the message that there's only one God and the command to love God.
- Moses warns the people of the challenges that come with success. When we're happy and wealthy, it's easy to forget about, ummm, who might we forget again? Oh, yeah. I remember now. Phew.
- The Torah warns of the dangers of

assimilation. We're commanded not to make peace with the seven nations who lived in Israel before we got there, because of the very real concern that we'd learn from their ways. We've seen over history how easy it is for Jews to become so friendly with the nations that we completely lose our sense of identity and forget that we are... ummm, who are we again?

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LAS VEGAS

Jewish Brain Freeze

Monday, August 19th
5:30-6:30 (4-6 grade)
6:45-8:00 (7-8 grade)
@ BRUSTERS
2862 S Durango Dr

for more info or to RSVP please contact Rabbi Locker at 917-613-1037

QUESTION OF THE WEEK

Which verse in the Torah has two enlarged letters, and why?

Answer is on page 6.

DON'T CHEAT!

DEEP DEEP THOUGHTS

If you write a book about failure and it fails,
does that make it a success?

ANSWER OF THE WEEK

QUESTION ON PAGE 5

Yo, whatcha lookin at?
You gotta think first!

One of the highlights of this week's Parsha is the sentence beginning with 'SHMA' which is undoubtedly the most famous sentence in all of the Torah. This sentence has two large letters, the AVIN in the word "Shma" and the DALET in the word "Echad". One reason given for this is that these letters spell "ED-witness." When we say Shma we are testifying to God's existence and uniqueness.

OUR 15TH SUMMER IS IN THE BOOKS!

NAGEELA NOTES:

Camp Nageela West campers share some of their memories of summer 2024



My highlight of Nageela was biking across the Golden Gate Bridge! At first we didn't think we would make it all the way, it was a 10 mile journey! But we pushed our limits and discovered that it wasn't so difficult. We even got to ride an awesome ferry back that included a stunning view of San Francisco. - **Ruby (1st year camper)**



My favorite memory from camp this summer was the third Shabbat in San Diego. Everyone was on a high after a day of surfing and having such a great time singing, dancing, and lots of fun overall. You could definitely feel how the atmosphere changed from the first day of camp to the last few days. We had grown so close and knew as camp was coming to a close that we would miss it so much. - **Aurelia (5th year camper)**



HBD

Happy Birthday wishes to the following Nageela family members:
We're a bit behind, so here's most of June.

Zachary Sefia
Liana Shamoil
Neori Jacobi
Eitan Bitton
David Saul
Isaac Chapman
Gabriel Bravernan
Ian Boyd
Elisabeth Kac
Joelle Shlasinger

Zvi Sudranski
Timothy Wheeler
Tehila David
Ahnyela Williams
Leedor Boblil
Ranit Stockman
Meira Borsody
Bill Visner
Abigail Boyd
Ben Pheibush

Aliza Roth
Aviel Ben yehuda
Bar'el Gazala
Joe Perry
Harrison Clayton
Elioenai Judah Jones
Bayla Winograd



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