

Interactive  
Questions  
for Your  
Shabbos  
Table



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ISSUE 102

**ROSH HASHANAH 5787**

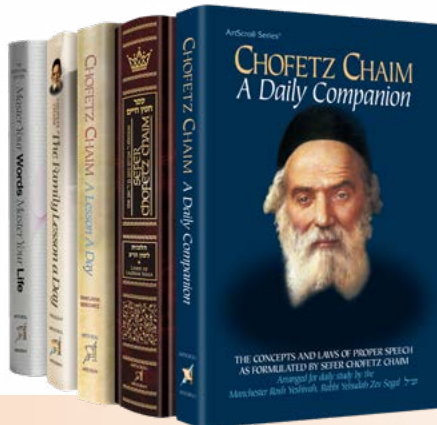
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## We Both Need to Make This Kabbalah

I have a close friend, Yehudah, whom I've known since kindergarten.

We're in yeshivah together and learn together during night seder, and we're part of the same circle of friends. That means we have lots of opportunities to shmooze.

Sometimes we get into pretty deep conversations, and one thing we've been talking about is trying to really



grow in Torah and *middos* this coming year. We decided to ask our rebbi about choosing a good *kabbalah*. We discussed learning *hilchos Shabbos* or a *sefer* on *tefillah*. But then I said, "Maybe we should learn *hilchos loshon hora*. We're definitely not as careful as we should be." After I said this, I thought, *Maybe I shouldn't have included Yehudah in my statement*. Was what I said okay?

—Yoni

### What's the Psak?

Do you know the halachah?

**A Yes.**

The result will not harm Yehudah; it will help him improve.

**B No.**

It's *loshon hora* about Yehudah.

**C Yes.**

What Yoni said wasn't so bad.

## Keep it Neutral

It's great that Yehudah and Yoni see the new year as an opportunity to grow! But, in his choosing of the *kabbalah*, Yoni made a common mistake. People think that since their relatives and close friends are so much a part of them, they can speak about them negatively.<sup>1</sup> It's as if there's no difference between saying "My allergies annoy me," and "My brother annoys me."

Not only is this a mistake, it is the opposite of the truth. Those who mean the most to us are the ones we should be most careful not to hurt.

Yoni also may have thought that including himself in the statement makes it kosher. This is also not true. It's okay for Yoni to tell his rebbi that *he* has a challenge regarding *loshon hora*, but he cannot include Yehudah in that admission.<sup>2</sup> Instead,

he should have said something like, "How about working on *loshon hora*? That's something we all need *chizuk* in."

However, Yoni *is* on the right track in his suggestion to learn the halachos, because that will help him avoid these and other mistakes in the future. And the best, most effective way to ingrain these halachos into our minds and hearts is to join Shmiras Haloshon Yomi and learn the halachos every day—a *kabbalah* that will fill this new year with positivity and peace.

**Answer:** The halachah is B.

Reviewed by **Rabbi Moshe Mordechai Lowy**

Rav Pam, zt"l, advised great caution when presenting halachic scenarios to the public, as each situation is unique. This *shailah* is for discussion only; actual halachic decisions should be made by a rav or halachic expert on a case-by-case basis.

The Shmiras Haloshon Shailah Hotline: 718-951-3696 2-3PM / 9-10:30 PM

1 Sefer Chofetz Chaim, Hilchos Loshon Hora 8:1  
2 Sefer Chofetz Chaim, Hilchos Loshon Hora 19

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the  
mashal  
and the  
message



**A**mazing news—the *gadol* *hador* was coming to Kings Gardens! Gedaliah Roth had made up his mind: he would host him! He tracked down the *gabbai* and hounded him until he agreed that the *gadol* would eat a Shabbos *seudah* in Gedaliah's home.

The Roths pulled out all the stops. Great food, a house cleaned from top to bottom, dressed in their finest—they sat down to the meal, awestruck in the presence of the *gadol* *hador*.

And then the strangest thing happened.

As soon as they started the meal, the family began talking to each other—in French! For two hours, the Roths spoke to each other in French while the *gadol* sat there not

understanding a word.

As he sat there, he wondered:  
*They begged me to come and*

*went to so much trouble to prepare for me—and then made me feel completely unwelcome. Why would I ever want*

*to come back?*

## Is This Any Way to Treat a Guest?

## What's the Message?

**Every week, we invite Shabbos as our honored guest.** We put so much effort into preparing—but how does Shabbos feel when our table is filled with negative or cynical words?

This year, with Rosh Hashanah falling on Shabbos, we're missing the powerful *shemirah* that comes with the blowing of the shofar. **That makes the *shemirah* of Shabbos all the more vital on this Yom HaDin.** As Rav Yitzchak Isaac of Kamarna reveals, when "brothers and friends sit together"—especially at a *seudas* *Shabbos*—it brings down *parnasah* and all the good in the world, **on the condition that one guards his mouth, not speaking negatively about any Jew.**

**This year, it's more important than ever to strengthen our Shabbosos. And what better way than by making our Shabbos table a place of positive, meaningful conversation.** To all those already using Aderaba at their Shabbos tables—keep it going! And if you haven't started yet, this is the perfect year to begin.

See the  
good  
What's the  
Real  
Story?



**I**t was a quiet Shabbos afternoon in Yerushalayim. Inside the Rosenbergs' apartment, Nachman Rosenberg sat at the dining room table, learning. His wife, Aliza, was resting while their older children watched the younger ones.

Suddenly, the quiet was shattered by—what was that? Loud music was blasting through the air.

Aliza  
jumped  
up

## A Shabbos Radio?

and ran to the living room window, where Nachman was already standing.

Up and down the block, people were doing the same.

And what they saw shocked them! The music

was coming from the Leffler's van, which had pulled out of its parking space with the

windows wide open, the radio cranked up to top volume, and with Moishy Leffler, *shtreimel* atop his head, in the driver's seat. He raced down the street, startling neighbors as he flew by.

Okay, Nachman thought, *maybe they had an emergency. But a radio? At full blast? On Shabbos?*

## Can you Crack the case?

On Friday afternoon, the Lefflers' twenty-year-old son, Gershon, had borrowed the car to pick up a cousin at the airport. The two boys had enjoyed their ride home along the highway with the music blasting and the windows wide open.

When Gershon arrived home, it was already close to Shabbos. In his rush, he forgot to roll up the windows and turn off the radio. The next day, his mother went into labor, and his parents rushed off to the hospital. Since it was Shabbos and they could not do any unnecessary *melachah*, the music had to stay on and the windows had to stay down.

Submitted by  
an Aderaba  
participant



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