

have a Nageela Shabbos

A weekly publication of Nageela West Joyfully Jewish Experiences

Passover Cooties

by Rabbi Dani Locker

candle lighting:

Phoenix 7:19
San Diego 7:37
Las Vegas 7:39
Los Angeles 7:46

Hooray, Passover is coming! Woohoo! I can't wait for matzah pizza! What? Oh. My bad. Well... To be fair, Passover is discussed in this week's torah reading; kind of. You see, way back when, part of the Passover service was the "Korban Pesach", the sacrifice of a lamb which was then eaten as part of the seder. Every Jew participated, and had a great big BBQ. There were a few people who could not fully observe the Passover holiday because they were "impure" and because of that were disqualified from eating this lamb. What makes someone impure? Coming into contact with a corpse, a person who is no longer alive. Now that's strange, isn't it? As a general rule, humans are cleaner than animals (with some notable exceptions), and certainly if a body is clean there should be nothing 'contaminated' about it. A dead animal would not make a person impure (at least not on the same intense level, although it can make someone an itty bit impure). Why do human corpses have cooties?

This week's edition of Nageela Shabbos is sponsored by Shlomo and Bina Lehrer

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An animal is just that... an animal.

A human is wayyy beyond an animal. People have the potential to be amazing! The ability for kindness, for creativity, for nobility and Godliness are so grand that in some ways can be ever more awesome than the angels! But what is it about a person that's so special? It's not our bodies. Sure, some human bodies can do remarkable things (which you'll know if you've ever seen Kevin Durant shoot a basketball or Usain Bolt rocket through a race). Still, humans will never be as strong as an elephant, quick as a deer, or wise as a talking baboon (I may have taken that one a little too far). Our greatness is not our body. It's not even the brain cells which make us more intelligent than other animals. It's our soul, the part of God inside us, which drives us to become special. When a person has died, they still have all the appearances of a human, but they've been separated from that powerful spiritual energy that makes us special. Looking like something you're not is the worst kind of contamination, and is something people should stay away from. We can't offer a sacrifice to God after hanging out with someone or something that seems great but is missing the essential elements of greatness. 

STUMP
THE RABBI



Dear Rabbi,

Why does my grandmother spit so much?

OK, that came out funny. But seriously, whenever anyone says something nice like, "You have such a lovely house" or "Your grandson is so smart (that's me, BTW), she starts spitting and talking about how horrible and ugly everything is. What's the deal? Are all grandparents just bitter?

Salvador Iva

Dear Sal Iva,

That was such a smart question, ptu, ptu, ptu. I feel you. I think all Jewish grandmothers do the spitting thing. You may have also heard mumbled words like "kinehora", "bli ayin hara" or "sup dawg". I may be confusing my terms. The concept of Ayin Hara, or "evil eye" has been around for a long time, and there's validity to it. I'll do my best to explain in this small paper. Please keep in mind,

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...STUMP continued

that just like all other Stump the Rabbi questions, these are serious topics that require a lot of study and time to fully understand. All I try to provide in "Nageela Shabbos" is a taste of an answer, so people can begin to understand the direction of the complete answer.

Raise your hand if you think God blesses us with more than we might deserve in life.

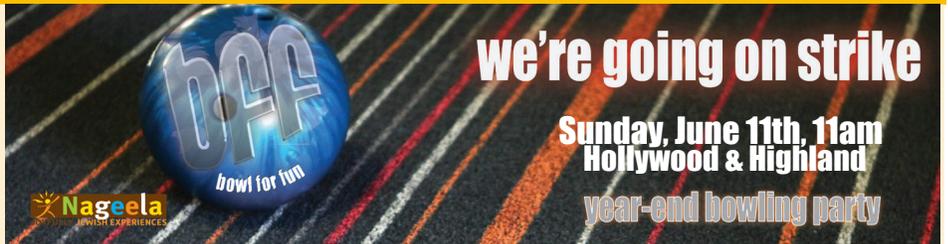
Okay, that didn't work very well, I can't see your hands. It's clear, though, that we did nothing to earn our lives. We were born, received bodies, souls, families, pickles and other amazing things without doing anything to earn them. We spend our entire life trying as hard as we can to match up to what we've received by giving back to God and to the world.

VERY PUNNY

IS YOUR SON INTO SPORTS?

**SURE!
HE LOVES TO PLAY KVETCH!**

**SORRY, THAT WAS TERRIBLE.
HAVE REALLY CORNY PUN?
EMAIL IT TO
DLOCKER@NAGEELAWEST.ORG**



When we receive awesomeness in life (that can be in the form of health, beauty, brains, money, children, anything good), we try not to call attention to it, in fear that it might cause some justice up in heaven. An imaginary scenario would go something like this:

Down on Earth Lilly is bragging to Maya that she just won 8.4 million dollars in the lottery. Meanwhile, up in the heavenly court:

"Hey did you see that Lilly girl won the lottery?"

"Yeah, so what.."

"Wait, who authorized that? Does she even deserve it?"

"I dunno, sometimes God just give blessings 'cause He loves people."

"I'm going to lodge an official complaint. She does not deserve it. Our job is to make sure the world is fair!"

(*editor's note: There's a whole different discussion about how God's mercy can fit with the concept of justice. Not for today... feel free to ask)

That seems to be the primary source for the superstitious

we're going on strike

**Sunday, June 11th, 11am
Hollywood & Highland**

year-end bowling party

aversion to ayin hara. It's a fear that if we make mention of goodness we have, it might be called to justice, because we don't necessarily always deserve it.

Jewish law this makes appearances. One such is that a father and son may not be called to the Torah one after the other in fear that it might cause someone to give the 'lovely family' an Ayin Hara.

So Sal, your grandmother is not spitting because she found a hair in her coffee (ugh, I'm drinking coffee now and I'm grossed out by that thought. I'm gonna spill it out). It's because she's so proud of you, and she wants to make sure that stays the same.

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the Rabbi

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

Thanks to all the participants who made the Nageela 2016-2017 School year

amazing! All weekly programs, Hebrew School, Nageelatte and NaGleeda are off for

the summer, but guess what? Only 16 days until Camp Nageela West 2017 opens its

doors! **BIG BEAR here we come!**

Our Year end event for the

LA region will take place this Sunday at 11am at Lucky Strike Bowling on Hollywood. & Highland RSVP required.

Nageela West provides social and educational programs for Jewish children across the west coast.
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