

have a

Nageela Shabbos

A weekly publication of **Nageela West** Joyfully Jewish Experiences

The Greatest Hits of All Time

by Rabbi Dani Locker

True or False:

Moshe led the Jewish people out of Egypt?

TRUE FALSE

Moshe was the greatest prophet who ever lived?

TRUE FALSE

Moshe performed ten plagues against the Egyptians?

TRUE FALSE

Or at least not fully true. Moshe was the messenger who told Pharaoh about all the plagues, and he performed most of them. However, the first two plagues involved water (the water in all the land turning to blood, and the river's frog infestation). Both of these were started by hitting the river with the special staff of G-d. Moshe could not be involved in hitting the river which gave him protection as a baby, so Aaron, his older brother, did the hitting (I grew up with older brothers, they're good at hitting).

Was it really a big deal if Moshe hit the river? Did this mean that when he went swimming he couldn't splash? When he took a bath, wasn't that

sitting on the water? (Older brothers do that, too).

It's possible that Moshe wasn't forbidden for the rest of his life to hit or hurt water. The plagues were a different story, though. The main purpose of the ten plagues (aside from punishing the Egyptians and forcing them to let the Jews out) was to show G-d's greatness and how He runs and controls all parts of the world. Our best tool for recognizing and appreciating G-d is gratitude.

Huh?

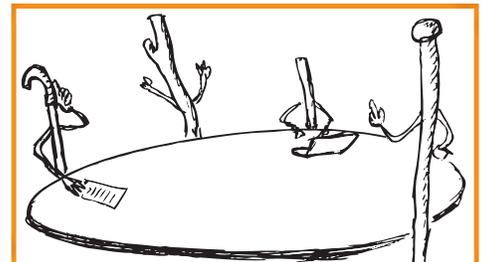
Really. The concept of Hakarat Hatov, or gratitude isn't just about saying "Thank you." It's about thinking about how you got benefit, and from whom you received it. When we say thanks, we're actually saying, "I realize that you were the source of this good thing I got."

When we look at the world and everything we get from it, it should help us realize that all the goodness we have in our lives comes from G-d and bring us closer to Him.

If the purpose of the plagues was to strengthen our connection to G-d, then it would have been silly to do that in a way that weakens gratitude, the very tool we use to recognize G-d. So it was specifically now, as Moshe is performing the plagues that he can not harm the river that helped him.

shabbos info:

Candle Lighting:
Las Vegas 4:44
Los Angeles 5:01
San Diego 4:59
Phoenix 5:37



"Thank you for coming to this staff meeting."

Let's take this opportunity to look at the goodness in our lives, and use it as a tool to help us think of our Creator and all that He does for us constantly. ✨

QUICK FIX

God had promised Abraham that he'd eventually free his children from the terrors of Egypt. But that wasn't enough. God tells Moshe, "I remember My promise. ALSO, I have heard the cries of the Jewish people." God always wants to give us goodness and blessing. We need to ask him, though. Prayer is necessary for Him to unlock the goodness He desires to give us!

This week's edition of NAGEELA SHABBOS is sponsored in honor of the engagement of Naftali Shmidman and Malka Maza

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have a Nageela Shabbos

STUMP THE RABBI



Hi Rabbi,

I hope you don't take this personally. Why can't rabbis agree on, like, anything? There's a Torah, right? So can't everyone just agree on what it says, or make compromises? How do I know who is right? Maybe my rabbi will give me the completely wrong answer! I bet if I would ask this same question to more than one rabbi I'd get more than one answer! Maybe there could be some kind of central rabbinic database or something. Please help me get this,

Thanks,
Noa I. D'Idant

Dear No i Didn't

The old joke goes, "Two Jews, three opinions." They're wrong, Jews never argue... Let me start with this. Your solution, the central database, is not only an awesome idea, it's an ancient one! Did you know that for a thousand years after the Torah was given to the Jewish people on mount Sinai, there were pretty much no arguments! I mean, there was the standard, "my team is going to win the Super Bowl" type of argument, but interpretation of torah and Jewish law was never in dispute! How is this,

you might ask...

After we received the Torah, all disputes, questions and unusual tweets were decided by our great leader, Moshe.

After that, the Sanhedrin was established. Have you heard of Sanhedrin? No, it is not a city in California (San Francisco, San Diego, San Hedrin...), it was the name of the rabbinical high court. If two citizens, or even two rabbis disagreed on, say the proper thickness of matzah, or what type of candy to throw at a bar mitzvah (and even slightly more pressing debates, if you can imagine such a thing), the Sanhedrin would make a decision and EVERYONE followed that decision! There were no differing customs.

The first recorded rabbinical arguments occurred when the Sanhedrin was shut down due to Greek and Roman persecution. Once there was no central 'database' or court, differences stuck, and different rabbis' followers started to differ very slightly from one another.

Guess what. You keep slight differentiation for two thousand years of tough lives, exiles, pogroms and gefilte fish, and you end up with some major differences.

But which one is right? All of 'em! So long as you're asking your questions to a rabbi with a valid tradition dating back to Sinai, you can be safe in the knowledge that

you're doing the right thing, even if it's different than what another rabbi tells his followers. If a rabbi is making up his own rules, well that's a different story.

Why can't we just compromise? I think it's because we care too much about truth! It's easy to compromise on silly, meaningless things, like who gets to ride shotgun. When it comes to Torah and tradition, hey, that's serious stuff, and we follow our traditions faithfully.

It's really important to remember that in the same way your tradition or your Rabbi's tradition is legit, other people's traditions are, too; and we've gotta be respectful of that, even if we disagree, or quarrel, or disagree, or argue or dissent with them.

Have-a-Nageela Shabbat

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

nageela week snapshot (Jan 29-Feb 4)

SUN	MON	THU
HEBREW SCHOOL LAS VEGAS 10AM JIL BEVERLY HILLS 10AM LAS VEGAS CAMP FAIR 2PM	NO NAGEELATTE SUMMERLIN	NAGEELATTE GREEN VALLEY 5:30