

have a Nageela Shabbos

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

Would you buy a used camel from this man?

by Rabbi Dani Locker

"Don't you trust me?" Marcy asked, nearly in tears. Her Dad had just asked her about the piece of paper sitting on the kitchen table. It looked suspiciously like a credit card bill. Just a month before, Marcy's parents had gotten her a card so that she could do her own shopping for clothes, school supplies and of course, music. When the bill came back, though, her parents had called her into the kitchen to explain the charges listed. Marcy was hurt, insulted.

"I can't believe you don't trust me!"

"Of course we trust you, dear." Her Mom explained. "But, everyone needs to be held accountable, even Moses was held accountable!"

After a long and complicated mathematical discussion (that I won't go into now because I hate math), Marcy was able to explain to her parents exactly what the charges were, and why they were important.

Marcy's Mom is smart. Let me explain what she was talking about.

In this week's Torah reading, the Mishkan is finally finished being built (as we've explained in previous weeks, the Mishkan was a portable temple that our ancestors carried with them as they traveled through the desert). Moshe had collected a whole lot of money for the project, and he counted every penny. When he was done counting, he realized that some money seemed to be missing! He did not rest until he found exactly where those coins had gone.



"You can count on me!"

Moshe wasn't exactly a used car salesman. G-d said about Moshe, "In all my house, he is the one I trust!" Even Moshe, who everyone trusted completely, had to keep track of every single penny, and when he thought a bit of gold was missing, he immediately set to find out what happened to it!

People don't like rules (sometimes even teenagers can be included in the term 'people'... I know, weird), and people really don't like their honesty questioned. Moshe realized, as we all must, that everybody makes mistakes from time to time (for some of us, all the time). We need others to hold us accountable. That's why schools have report cards, business have clocking in, and almost everything of value should have some protection or safeguard. Don't let your pride get in the way. If you have an important responsibility, make sure someone else can help see you through.

candle lighting:

Las Vegas 6:38
Los Angeles 6:50
San Diego 6:45
Phoenix 6:25

Think outside the bunk

Registration is now open for
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VERY PUNNY

**MY SISTER LOVES
MARROR.**

**SHE EATS SO MUCH
MARROR AT THE
SEDER. IT'S LIKE
I'VE NEVER SEEN
HERBIVORE!**

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STUMP THE RABBI



Dear Rabbi,

Why do some Jews have long curly things on their face? And how come some don't? I mean, is it a thing, or not?

Thanks,

Benard

Dear Side Bernie,

By 'long curly things', do you mean designer glasses? I'm kidding. I'm pretty sure you are referring to the long sidelocks or sideburns you've seen on some people. The Torah doesn't usually give fashion advice, so it's a good question.

The Torah says, "Do not round the corners of your head." That doesn't mean not to use sand paper on your head. The Torah is telling Jewish men not to completely shave the areas around where sideburns grow (according to most authorities, that means the area in front of the ear, from top to bottom). There are a couple of reasons for this. Some say it's simply so that Jews have a unique 'look'. According to others, it was pretty common for priests of idol worship to shave the sides of their heads (Friar Tuck, anyone?). To make sure we didn't end up worshipping all kinds of strange gods, we were instructed to distance ourselves from their priests and anything they did. If they would have had a favorite priestly flavor of ice cream, we'd have to stay away from that, too.

That explains the basic idea of having some sideburns. You'll notice that I don't have any long, curly 'things' growing out of the side of my head. That's because the Torah doesn't say I should. So why do some people?

If a friend asked you for a small piece of chocolate, what would you do? You'd give them some, probably. After all, that's all they asked for. If it was someone you truly cared about, you might go beyond what they asked, and give them a larger piece of chocolate.

No, I'm not suggesting that we smear chocolate on our faces, although I have to admit that has a certain appeal. G-d asked us not to shave off our sideburns completely. You can just leave a thin layer of hair. Some people, because they truly love G-d and His commandments, decided to show that by taking the mitzvah and supersizing it. They don't just 'leave some hair', they grow it long. It's a beautiful expression of love for G-d and his mitzvot.

If that's your family's custom, cool! If it's not, try to make sure your barber doesn't completely cut off your sideburns.

We don't want to burn our bridges with G-d, after all...

Have a Nageela Shabbat,

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

DID JEW KNOW?

2 Torah scrolls are read from this week.
The first is the weekly parsha. The second is 'Hachodesh'.
It's the mitzvah of establishing a Jewish calendar, and it's the very first mitzvah given to the Jewish people as a nation, while we were still in Egypt!

Know a cool Jewish factoid? email it to
dlocker@nageelawest.org

nageela week snapshot (Mar 26-April 1st)

SUN	MON	THU	SAT
NAGEELA HEBREW SCHOOL LAS VEGAS - 10AM JIL BEVERLY HILLS	SUMMERLIN NAGEELATTE 6:45PM	GREEN VALLEY NAGEELATTE 7:00	ONEG AND HAVDALLAH LAS VEGAS @ THE LOCKERS