

Bereishis 5781
October 16, 2020

HAVE-A NAGEELA SHABBOS

SEASON 5 EPISODE 1

a kid friendly publication of Nageela West Coast Joyfully Jewish Experiences



Gardening 101 by Rabbi Dani Locker

“The forecast for the Garden of Eden today will be mostly sunny, with a high of 78. In traffic, it seems there will be some blockages on the road to Eden due to spinning swords and angelic guardians. Now back to you, Mike.”

“Thank you Melissa. And now, from the newsroom, a horrific murder has taken place. Some have gone so far as to call it a world war. What was the cause for all the violence, as Cain killed his brother, Abel? Some never-before-released body-cam footage now shows us a behind the scenes look at the conversation that went on between the two brothers, just before the incident. Viewer discretion advised. Let’s listen in.”

“Hey, Wassup bro?”
“Everything is stupid and everyone is stupid.”
“Whoa, Cain, man, what’s gotten you so upset? Are you still miffed that God didn’t accept your offering? It’s all good. Didn’t God tell you just the other day? If you improve, all will be good!”
Abel, my dear brother (who I’m starting to get really annoyed at), there is no God. There’s no judge and no justice.”
“But Cain, how can you say that? Didn’t God just...”
WOMP
“Owww.”
Static.
“Well, viewers, as you can see, just before the horrific act,



Candle lighting

Scottsdale	5:33
Henderson	5:54
Las Vegas	5:44
San Diego	5:55
Irvine	5:59
Reno/ Tahoe	5:59
Los Angeles	6:08
Oakland	6:11
Park City	6:25

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Cain was so upset that he actually seems to have denied the existence of God. You heard it here first!"

"Ok, Mike. I heard the audio and saw the recording, but it must be doctored footage. How can Cain have possibly denied God? First of all, the whole concept of bringing offerings

of cognitive dissonance. Cain did not want to admit to himself that he messed up. Admitting there is a God would make it an unavoidable fact. He did mess up! Cain subconsciously con-

vinced himself that there is no God to protect himself from the reality of his shortcomings."

"Thank you doctor. So, in your opinion, what lessons

can we all take from this gruesome episode?" "Mr. Michael, I think you must understand that a human brain has a very hard time accepting failure. Our ego won't allow it. Even we realize that, maybe you will be more careful to look for the truth instead of following our first impressions."

"So what you're saying, doctor, if I'm understanding you correctly, is that we should think very carefully before we judge or make decisions, because sometimes our decisions are skewed by our emotions. Is that accurate?"

"Well, yes... but you should work on your English. It's very hard to understand you."

sometimes our decisions are skewed by our emotions

to God was his idea in the first place. Second of all, didn't God literally just speak to him? I mean, I've never experienced prophecy, but from what I hear, it's pretty intense. You don't just forget something like that. If Cain had prophecy, how could he then deny God?"

"Well, Melissa, that's a fantastic point.

Calling in to discuss this issue is the head of psychology at the Pishon River Institute, Dr. Irving Fishelson. Dr., what do you make of Cain's odd statement?"

"Well, first of all, Michael, I do not approve of you showing that body cam footage on air. People see too much violence and seeing a live murder can desensitize them to people's suffering. Not to mention how disgraceful it is to Abel's memory! As far as Cain's mindset, I believe you are dealing with a classic case

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ADAM AND EVE got married without having a date.

They did, however, have an apple!

OUCH! GROAN!

Do you have a better joke? I sure hope so! send it to dlocker@nageelawest.org

VIRTUAL HAVDALLAH PARTY

Saturday night, Oct. 17th, 8pm

ZOOM ID: 317 427 7225

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.



#143 Two Face



As we begin reading the creation narrative this week, we'll do a several week series on questions about The Creation. Enjoy, and don't forget to ask!

the image of God He created him; male and female He created them."

Hi Rabbi,

Dear Harvey,

The way I learned the story of creation, it seems that God first created man and then only afterward created woman out of his rib. WHY? With every other animal, I guess they all had male and female created together. Why were people done differently?

I heard that God created man first so he could at least be in charge for a few hours...

Thanks,
Harvey Dent

Let me start with this. God might not have created man first at all! It is in fact a disagreement in the Talmud (wait, Rabbis in the Talmud disagreeing? nooooooo) exactly how God created the first people. You see the Torah says something unusual (wait, the Torah says something unusual? nooooooo) about the creation of man:

Can you spot the challenging part of this sentence? It says God created man, and then it explains the he created man as male and female. Hmmm. According to one opinion in the Talmud, this simply means that God eventually created male and female, yet remember, they're both called 'man'. Man is the name of the species. Have you ever met a male cow? Sure you have. It's usually called a bull, yet it's still a cow. Female humans are still part of the species of 'man' or you might say 'mank-ind' or homosapien. According to this opinion, God created man first and then removed a part of his body to create the first woman. Incidentally, according to most opinions it was not a rib. Possibly a tail,

וַיִּבְרָא אֱלֹהִים אֶת הָאָדָם
בְּצַלְמֹו בְּצַלְמֵם אֱלֹהִים בָּרָא
אֹתוֹ זָכָר וּנְקֵבָה בָּרָא אֹתָם

"And God created man in His image, in



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Stump the Rabbi

continued

though... interesting. According to the other opinion, man and woman were all together in one body, with, wait for it... two faces! Not like two-face in Batman comics (his name should really be one-face-split-in-half) but two completely formed people who were attached, and then God basically chopped them in half. Fun!

So why would God have done that, rather than creating two distinct people as with all other creatures? That's where we

started, isn't it? The Talmud tells us that men and women are sooo different, it's difficult for us to live together in peace. Somehow, knowing that we are truly one, we literally came from the same body should make it easier for us to cope. The same way you wouldn't want to hurt your own hand, we can view the opposite gender as more connected to us.

It's valuable for us to see that the world is not random and haphazard. MAN-

KIND is the spiritual center of the universe, and everything God did for us, He did with an incredible attention to detail. Even something as 'disconnected' to us as the forms of our ancestors so many thousands of years is intentional and made for our maximal benefit.

Have a Nageela Shabbat,

the Rabbi

deep thoughts

WHY IS THERE AN EXPIRATION DATE ON SOUR CREAM?



HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

Sean Shamama
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