

# NAGEELA SHABBOS

Have-a

Vayikra 5781  
March 19<sup>th</sup>, 2021

SEASON 5 EPISODE 22

*a kid friendly publication of Nageela West Coast Joyfully Jewish Experiences*



## The Hupcap Hero

by Rabbi Dani Locker

POP! The hubcap went bouncing off the wheel of the car and began to roll downhill. Michelle saw it go, but there wasn't much she could do about it. She'd just gotten this new car- well, not exactly new, it was nearly 20 years old but it was her first car so it was special to her- and on her very first time driving it she'd gotten lost in a strange neighborhood. The streets were full of potholes. "I wonder," she thought. "If a street can be considered full of potholes. How can you be full of a hole. You should be empty of holes." Then she thought, "Hey, that should be a DEEP THOUGHTS in an episode of Nageela Shabbos." Michelle and Horatio (that was her car's name) had bumped their way up alleys and down streets, dodging stray cats and occasional buffalo (I TOLD you it was a strange neighborhood) until they hit a particularly large bump and Hubby (yes,

her hubcaps, too) flew off with a loud POP! That hubcap was lost to her now, she knew. It would be extremely dangerous for her to get out of the car and retrieve it in this part of town. She sighed to herself, double checked that her doors were all locked and rolled on, silently mourning Hubby's loss.

The hubcap rolled on through the streets (seeming to ignore the potholes) until it came to rest against the wall of a building. There it stayed for many days through rain, snow and ice cream (long story, don't ask). Late one night, a cat cornered a frightened mouse at the end of an alley. The mouse covered its eyes and started saying shema when suddenly, a brick fell off of the roof, smashed into the hubcap,



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Scottsdale	6:20
Honolulu	6:24
Henderson	6:33
Las Vegas	6:34
San Diego	6:41
Irvine	6:44
Los Angeles	6:46
Reno	6:52
Oakland	7:02
Park City	7:14

**Didja know you can sponsor an episode of Nageela Shabbos? Contact us for details! You just might change your life!**

she named

sending it spinning through the air and straight at the cat. The mouse was able to escape and rejoin its family, where it became famous (typo intended- thank you very much) as the cat- attack- survivor. Later on, the mice made the now dented hubcap into a museum, and posted a plaque thanking Michelle for their protective Hubby.

### Should Michelle get any credit for saving this mouse's life?

You may have heard of Rashi, the best known commentary on the Torah. This week's Torah portion discusses the way to get forgiveness for doing something seriously wrong without meaning to. Rashi explains that we are truly responsible for the results of our actions, even if we had not intended them. He gives a few examples of this. According to the Torah, 2 witnesses are enough to be believed for basically anything in court. If 2 witnesses testify to something and they're discovered to have been lying, those witnesses get whatever consequences they were trying to give. If for example, they were lying to make someone pay \$100, they need to pay a \$100 fine as the consequence. If their lie might have cost someone his life... well, yeah.

What happens if a third (false) witness joins the first two liars. Rashi tells us that even though

his testimony wasn't really needed, he still gets the consequence, because he's joining with evil. Yet we know that the Torah gives reward at a higher rate than punishment. Therefore, Rashi says, if you accidentally do something good, or join with people doing something good, your reward is immense. So if you are gathering the wheat in your field, drop some, and a poor person enjoys it, you gain reward! If a coin falls out of your pocket (or a hubcap out of your car- the manuscript versions in Rashi differ) and someone gets benefit from it, you are rewarded as well.

Think about it. Even the actions we don't mean to do have results, and we can get credit from the positive results. I don't know about you, but this motivates me to try to anticipate the results of my actions, and make sure more good comes from them. Also, I'm going to loosen my hubcaps, because you never know when there's a mouse in need.

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## PICKLE JEWS

GALACTICALLY SYNDICATED  
COMIC STRIP



**Passover**  
**MAD LIBS**  
a wacky ZOOM event for  
5-8 grade  
this Tuesday at 7pm  
email [locker@ncsy.org](mailto:locker@ncsy.org) to RSVP

**HAPPY BIRTHDAY!**  
Best wishes to our friends and family members celebrating this week...

Jacob Hayes	Matthew Werblud
Elad Cohen	Oreya Gazala
Aaron Kleiman	Mordy Foxbruner
Lia Bitton	

Stump the Rabbi is a forum where kids can ask ANY Jewish question.

Have a question? Please send it in to [stump@nageelawest.org](mailto:stump@nageelawest.org)

Questions here are real. Names and some wording have been changed.

**Note:** We call this 'Stump The Rabbi' for fun, but that's not really the point. The goal is to learn something important in an interesting way.

# Stump the Rabbi



## #164 I'll Have the Pickled Tongue

Hi Rabbi,

My parents are Israeli, and we speak Hebrew at home. When I've studied Torah, though, I haven't been able to understand half of it! Why isn't the Torah in Hebrew, and what language is it in?

Thanks,  
Eve Reit

Well met Eve Reit,

**Wherefore doth thee bethink the t'rah is in a diff'rent language than hebrew? though i shall not attempteth to sayeth yond nothing is diff'rent, prithee hark well to what i shall bid thee. Soft, come hither and perchance thou would'st gain counsel.**

**the most wondrous writ'r and poet william shakespeare hath lived a m're four hundr'd years ago, yet the english language of anon is far aroint from the elizabethan language of backeth then. Well, the tongue of the jews hast been in useth f'r many thousands of years, and during yond timeth v'rily is't n'rmal f'r th're to beest some changes. The diff'rences art quaint bawbling consid'ring how much timeth t hast been.**

If that was annoying to read, just imagine how painful it was to write! To make a long story short, modern Hebrew and biblical Hebrew are very much the same language, yet every language evolves over time.

If you had trouble understanding any of the paragraphs above, that should show you just how much a language can change over time. Hebrew is called Lashon HaKodesh- the holy tongue, (not to be confused with pickled tongue) and was, according to our tradition, the original language the first people spoke before they started Babeling at the tower (autocorrect can not stop my puns). What could be so special about a language that we would call it holy?

Maimonides writes that what makes the Holy Language holy is it's cleanliness. There are no curse words, or even words for the body's private parts in ancient Hebrew. That makes it a special, elevated language (modern Hebrew would probably not fit that category). Most of the philosophers agree, though, that Hebrew's holiness is deeper. Remember learning about the creation of the universe? What tools did God use? Backhoe loader? Nah. Giant excavator? Nope. Nuclear fission? Hmmm, I don't think that was the tool. WORDS. God used words to create the universe. By the

Alas, poor Yankel!  
I knew him, Herschel!



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0

9

5

DAYS TO CAMP NAGEELA WEST  
GIRLS SESSION

1

2

1

DAYS TO CAMP NAGEELA WEST  
BOYS SESSION

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# Stump the Rabbi

continued

way, I've tried it, and it didn't work for me. Maybe my mouth needs a tune up. God spoke and reality was formed. He spoke in Lashon HaKodesh- the holy tongue. The words of the original ancient Hebrew language are part of the blueprint of creation. They're not simply random words chosen to represent nouns, adjectives and verbs (all things I learned from Mad Libs, not from school). They represent the fundamental nature of reality and that is why God was able to use those words to form reality. I know that's deep stuff, and I'm not sure I fully understand it myself, but here's one way you might be able to appreciate it. After Shabbat, turn on your computer and open Chrome or Microsoft Edge (it's doable on Safari, but a little more complicated). Go to any website on the planet (I recommend [www.nageelawest.org/home](http://www.nageelawest.org/home)). Right click

Back	Alt+Left Arrow
Forward	Alt+Right Arrow
Reload	Ctrl+R
Save as...	Ctrl+S
Print...	Ctrl+P
Cast...	
Send to Google Phone	
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Block element	
Shorten the current page link and copy	
View page source	Ctrl+U
Inspect	Ctrl+Shift+I

anywhere on the page and click on "View page source." You'll see something amazing! Before your eyes, you'll see thousands of lines of computer language. The source code tells your computer what to show you and how it should act. You might see text, a photo or video on the site, but the source will contain many lines providing details of exactly how wide and high the image is, what colors to make the background and text, what happens when you right click, left click or nose click.

Lashon HaKodesh is the source code of our universe. We might just see a tree, a bird or a pickle, yet there's so much detail both on a physical, molecular level and also on a spiritual level. When we speak in Hebrew, we are accessing that depth and power. We are told that Hebrew is the best language to pray in, and a part of that is for this reason. Each word we say in Hebrew is not simply a way to convey information, but is a powerful encoded message with a great amount of spiritual energy.

Here's one more thought about the special and unique holy language. Jewish tradition speaks of 70 languages and 70 nations. Coincidence? I think not! Sure there are over 7,000 languages in the world today, but most of them (like English) are concocted from the combinations of other, older

languages. After the Tower of Babel incident- to refresh your memory: The people after the great flood decided to fight against God, so God confused them by making them speak 70 different languages and spread them out throughout the world- the seventy nations each spoke their own language. The Jewish nation is the 71st, and Hebrew represents the core of Jewish identity. It's no coincidence either that our nation was known as the Ivrim- The Hebrews, and our language is Ivrit- Hebrew. Although much has changed in the Hebrew language, it is still the soul of the Jewish people, the language of creation, and a really great way to order falafel.

**Good night, good night! Parting  
is such sweet sorrow, That I shall  
say good night till it be morrow.**

**Have a Nageela Shabbat,  
the Rabbi  
[Exit, pursued by a bear.]**



When life gives you  
melons...

You might be dyslexic

OUCH! GROAN!

Have a better joke and want a shoutout in Nageela Shabbos? Just email it to [dlocker@nageelawest.org](mailto:dlocker@nageelawest.org)

**Nageela West Coast**

breaks the mold of old school Jewish outreach by providing out-of-the-box social and educational programs for Jewish children across the West Coast. Through afterschool activities, weekend retreats and our signature summer camp, we engage elementary and middle school children in a fun and meaningful experience. Our "questions encouraged" mindset makes Nageela a comfortable learning and growing environment for Jewish children of all backgrounds.



**IF A SPONGE HAS A  
LOT OF HOLES, IS IT  
FULL OF HOLES OR  
EMPTY OF HOLES?**

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