

have a

Nageela Shabbos

ISSUE 7 - Parshat Vayeitzei 5777

December 9th, 2016

Candle Lighting:

Las Vegas 4:08

San Diego 4:24

Los Angeles 4:26

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

Man, am I Hungry!

by Rabbi Dani Locker

There's an old joke about a kid who complained about everything. The food was too hot or too cold, there was too much traffic, or the pickles weren't crunchy enough (I totally get that complaint, I mean, soggy pickles are disastrous!). One day, he was sitting at home kvetching as usual, "Man, am I hungry! Man, am I hungry!" This went on for what seemed like an hour until finally, his mom got fed up and stuck a huge pot of food in front of him. (She got fed up, so he got fed up. Get it?) It was wonderfully quiet for a few minutes, until she heard, "Man was I hungry! Man was I hungry! Man was I hungry!" The point, of course, is that lots of times, our habits are not caused by what happens to us, but by our attitude. This guy just wanted to complain, and taking away the thing he was complaining about didn't change his mood at all.

In this week's Torah portion, Jacob and his family kind of ran away from Laban, Jacob's Father-in-law (Did you know there's an actual, medically classified phobia called Soceraphobia- the fear of parents- in-law). As they were leaving, Rachel kind of stole something from her dad. Now I know it's usually not a good idea steal from your dad (or for from anyone for that for that matter) but this was an unusual case. Rachel knew that her father, Laban, dedicated a lot of his time to worshiping funky, strange gods. He had dolls and statues and all sorts of interesting religious ceremonies. She decided to steal the 'trafim' a specific form of idol. BTW, she didn't do this 'cuz she wanted them. She just didn't want good old lying, cheating Dad to also worship idols.

Why would Rachel bother taking her Dad's idols? Sure, worshipping idols is bad. I get that. Did she think that taking his dolls and statues away would change him? It's kind of like the complaining kid. When he was no longer hungry, he found something to complain about. Certainly an idol worshipper like Laban would find something to worship; a rock, a potato, an overpaid athlete; something! What did Rachel hope to accomplish?

You see, Rachel understood something about life. Life is not a pass or fail grade. She got that her dad was not going to change overnight. She understood he was never going to be a righteous man, it's sad. But at least she could help him by taking away this one particular form of perversion. These 'trafim' were special, they were unique. In stealing them Rachel may have not change her father's life completely but she could change one little bit of it.

We can learn a lesson from Rachel. No, I don't mean the lesson of stealing from your father. You should probably avoid that. The lesson we can learn is that every little bit makes a difference. if I used to do ten mitzvot a day

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VERY PUNNY

HOW DID LABAN KNOW THAT JACOB WAS LEAVING WITH ALL HIS SHEEP?

**HE HERD HIM GO
HAVE REALLY CORNY PUN? EMAIL IT TO
DLOCKER@NAGEELAWEST.ORG**

QUICK FIX

Esav told his son, Elifaz to kill Jacob. Elifaz wasn't sure what to do because he wanted to honor his father, but he knew murder was bad. Jacob offered a solution by letting Elifaz rob him, making him 'kinda dead'. Elifaz doesn't sound like such a bad guy, compared to his father. Yet the eternal enemy of the Jews, Amalek, comes from Elifaz (most notably, the notorious and nefarious Haman!) That's because the worst evil in the world is the kind that **thinks it's good**. Elifaz & Amalek are extra dangerous because they have some good mixed in, and their evil is harder to see.

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STUMP THE RABBI



Hi Rabbi,

Why are there different kinds of Jews, like Ashkenazi or Sephardic? Are there others? Don't we all come from the same Jews thousands of years ago? My family is Sephardic, but I have no idea what that really means.

Thanks Rabbi,
Ace Faradi

Dear Ace,

You're right! We do all come from the same people. When all Jews stood at the foot of Mount Sinai about 3,300 years ago, we all got the same Torah, and kept the same rules. Even then, we were divided into tribes, and each tribe had a slightly different way of approaching things. So while we all kept the same rules, one tribe spent more time on studying Torah (Yissachar), while other tribes were more involved in the singing part of the service (Levi) or the political leadership (Yehuda). When it came to rules, though, they all asked Moshe, the great prophet to decide. After Moshe, we had a Supreme Court, called the Sanhedrin, that decided all questions about rules. But bad stuff happened (that's

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and now I do 11, I have changed my life for the better. If used to used to be dishonest 20 times a day and today I do 19 times, I'm a little bit better. Everything in life is about just changing a little bit, just getting a little bit better.

Anyway, gotta run... Man am I hungry!

making a very, very long story very, very short) and our nation got separated and spread all over the world! Without texting! It was impossible for the very spread out communities to keep in contact with each other, and local Rabbis had to start making larger decisions for their communities.

A large portion of Jews ended up in Europe. Jews from those areas, like France, Russia, England, Germany and Poland are referred to as 'Ashkenazi' Jews. The word literally means 'German,' but includes other countries as well. Sephard literally means Spain, but most Jews from Middle eastern and North African countries (Egypt, Morocco, Iran) have similar customs and are often called 'Sephardic'. Over the past 2,000 or so years, a few different decisions among communities

have developed into what seems like totally different paths. But they're not. If you ask reputable Ashkenzi and Sephardic Rabbis the same questions, you'll see that they agree on 98.436% of details. Everything in the written and Oral Torah (we'll discuss those in a future edition) is agreed upon and kept. There are a few differences in customs, and decisions about questionable rules.

One thing is for certain. All Jews are brothers and sisters, and whether you call yourself Sephardic, Ashkenazi, or tomato, a Jew is a Jew is a Jew.

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 (dec 4-9)

SUN	SUN continued	MON	WED	THU
JIL 10-12 Beverly Hills Nageela Hebrew School 10-12:30 Las Vegas	Innaugural LA NageeLatte 233 S Beverly Dr 1:00-2:00 NageeLatte San Diego 6:30-7:30	NO Summerlin NageeLatte Nageela San Diego Visitation Contact us to arrange a meeting	Torah Buddies- Beverly Hills 4:30-6:30 Camp Nageela West registration week promo ends	NageeLatte Henderson 5:30-6:30

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