

have a

Nageela Shabbos

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Take the Field

by Rabbi Dani Locker

Cover me, I'm going in!

It's finally time. After years and years of bitter persecution and slavery, our great leader and redeemer, Moshe, is about to walk into the palace of Pharaoh, King of Egypt and demand our freedom. Moshe and Aharon gather all the elders together for what seems to be a group effort. Oddly, only Moshe and Aharon actually entered to speak with the king. It was only the two of them when Moshe miraculously turned a stick into a snake. Where'd everybody go?

The Midrash tells us what really happened. Moshe got everyone fired up, "Hey, we're gonna go to Pharaoh, and we're going to show him who's boss! Ain't we boys?" [I might have translated that loosely] Many Jews, especially the elders- the leaders- had Moshe's back. They were with

him 100 percent. At least until they saw the lions. Yeah, the palace had lions guarding the gates. Do you have any idea how hard out is to get UPS To deliver when you've got a lion at your front door?

"What's the delivery address Ma'am? OK. Is there a gate code in your community? How about ferocious beasts?" Amazon wouldn't touch Cairo in those days.

As Moshe and his brother Aaron got closer and closer to the palace, more and more of their entourage chickened out and slipped away until, as they stood before the king, only the two brothers were left. It is for this reason, continues the Midrash, that when the elders wanted to go with Moshe up mount Sinai, they were not allowed past the velvet ropes and the "Mount Sinai VIP Lounge" signs. Moshe alone was allowed to ascend to the top and receive the Torah.

Did Moshe need their help? He had Someone pretty powerful at his back! What was the big deal if the elders didn't go to meet the king together with Moshe? He didn't need them! Why were they denied the right to go with Moshe to receive the Torah from Mount Sinai?

Playing softball as a kid, I remember a game when I was

shabbos info:

Candle Lighting:
Las Vegas 4:37
Los Angeles 4:54
San Diego 4:52
Phoenix 5:30

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really not in the mood to take the field. I wasn't very good, and I was stuck somewhere out in the outfield where nobody ever hit the ball, barely within shouting distance. When I told the coach I wanted to sit out that half, he told me, "If you don't field, you don't hit."

Apparently nobody had introduced him to football. The idea is that if you want to be a part of something, especially something important, you've got to be in it for the good parts AND the hard parts. You can't just choose the parts you want.

Maybe the elders didn't do anything wrong. But the Midrash is teaching us you can't do halvesies. Either you're with Moshe, you're a true partner, or you're just a follower.

It's hard work to be committed to a value or a person. Sometimes we want to just join for the fun parts. Just remember, if you don't take the field, you don't get to hit.

DID JEW KNOW

There are seven women to have achieved the status of prophetess:

Sarah (wife of Abraham), Miriam (sister of Moshe), Deborah, Channah (mother of Samuel), Abigail, Chulda and Esther

HAVE A COOL JEWISH FACT? EMAIL IT TO DLOCKER@NAGEELAWEST.ORG

have a Nageela Shabbos

STUMP THE RABBI



Dear Rabbi,

I'm not sure what to do? I've been trying to make blessings before and after eating. It's important to me that I thank God for what I eat. The thing is that I don't only eat kosher. Am I supposed to make a blessing of I eat something that isn't kosher?

**Brad Lester Hughes*

Dear B.Less Hughes,

Wow! No, I mean it, seriously! You get huge cred for committing to something as important and as difficult as consistently remembering to make blessings. Now, picture this:

You walk into the kitchen and smell this incredible cake your mom just took out of the oven (I happen to know that your mom is an excellent baker).
 "Hey, Mom, can I have a piece?"
 Don't you mean, "May I have a piece?"
 Groan.
 "May I have a piece?"
 "Actually, sweetie, no. I made these to bring over to a friend who's in the hospital."

You look your mom in the eye, take a piece of cake and pop it in your mouth. Whod! That's really bad, am I right?
 Now imagine you smile at your mother and say, "Thank you so much, Mother dearest, for this delicious cake."

Brother, I would not want to be in the same zip code as your mother after that! You can't thank her for something she's expressly forbidden!

Everyone grows at their own pace, and we all

have our things that we're not perfect with yet. For you, one of those things is that you don't keep only kosher. But the fact remains that God told us what not to eat, and if we do eat it, we can't thank Him for it- that's an extra slap in the face.

So, no, we do not make blessings on food that isn't kosher, before or after eating. The good news is that you can still make blessings on kosher food, and it's pretty easy to find Kosher stuff in local supermarkets. So do your best to find kosher items to eat, and you'll be good!

Did I hear someone sneeze? Bless you.

Have - a- Nageela Shabbos

**Editor's note: This question is from a while back, and the asker now keeps Kosher as well.*

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

**VERY
PUNNY**

**"THIS IS 911, WHAT'S
YOUR EMERGENCY?"**

THERE'S A BUSH ON FIRE!

**HAVE REALLY CORNY PUN? EMAIL IT TO
DLOCKER@NAGEELAWEST.ORG**

nageela week snapshot (jan 22-28)

SUN

HEBREW SCHOOL
LAS VEGAS 10AM

JIL
BEVERLY HILLS
10AM

LAS VEGAS CAMP
FAIR 2PM

MON

NAGEELATTE
SUMMERLIN
6:45

THU

NAGEELATTE
GREEN VALLEY
5:30

FRI

NAGEELUNCH
ADELSON
SCHOOL

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