HAVE A

KID FRIENDLY TORAH MAGAZINE A PROJECT OF NAGEELA WEST COAST.

SEASON 9. EPISODE 6

**PARSHAS VAYEITZEI 5785** 



## **Important News**

### PICKLES AND SHABBATON!

Exciting week is drawing to a close! Making pickles in Vegas, ice cream and smoothies in Arizona, and an amazing girls Shabbaton!

Stay tuned for details on our first ski shabbaton!





# Beep Thoughts

There should be CTRL+Z for elevator buttons

We have programs for Middle School kids from all over the West Coast. Please contact us for details!





**REGISTRATION IS OPEN FOR CAMP NAGEELA WEST 2025!** 

FIRST TIME CAMPERS CAN GET THREE WEEKS OF CAMP FOR JUST \$2,9991

# **COMING UP SOON**

- DEC 6-7- Las Vegas Girls Shabbaton
  - DEC 9th- Las Vegas TNT
  - DEC 10- Online Summer Info Session
- DEC 11th- Park City Jewish Warriors Final Session
- DEC 18th-Los Angeles Ice Skating event Dec 20-22 Park City Ski Shabbaton

You can sponsor a week of Nageela Shabbos in honor of a special occasion or in memory of a loved one. Help us reach more Jewish kids with interesting Torah content!







## **HOW DARE YOU?**

Have you ever had a delayed reaction? Like you bang your shin, and don't feel it right away, and a few seconds later, you're on the floor begging for an ambulance? Or maybe someone acted toward you in a hurtful manner, and it didn't bother you at first, but the next day, after stewing for a while, you get more upset.

Jacob got angry and argued with his fatherin-law, Laban. Twenty years late. Why the delayed reaction?

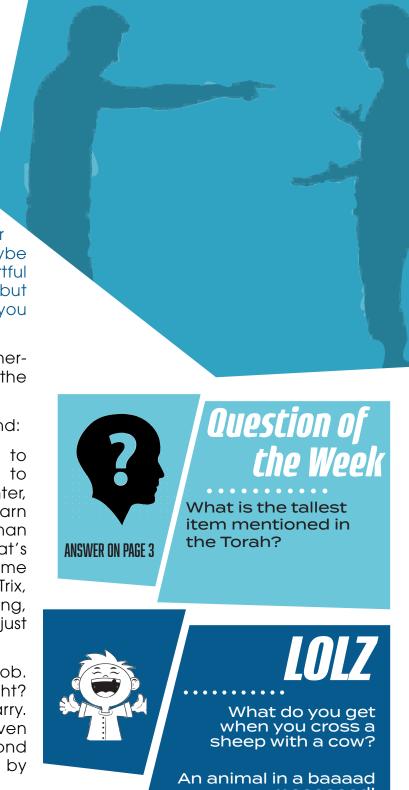
Let's back up and give some background:

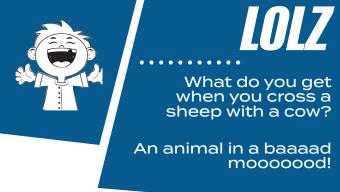
Our great grandaddy Jacob traveled to Laban's town to find the right person to marry. He found Rachel, Laban's daughter, and offered to work seven years to earn Rachel. IKR? Sounds a little different than modern dating techniques, but, hey, that's how they did it back then. Then came the tricks. Not magic tricks, or cereal Trix, but beguiling, bamboozling, cheating, conniving, deceiving, defrauding, and just plain nasty lying.

First, Laban switched brides on Jacob. WHAT? Yeah. The bride wears a veil, right? He gave Jacob the wrong woman to marry. Then he scammed him into working seven more years to marry Rachel as his second He continued cheating him by wife. changing his pay dozens of times!

"Hey, Jacob, I'll pay you with all the green sheep that are born. OK.? Then when a bunch of green sheep are born, Laban comes back. "We agreed that I'd pay you the purple sheep, right? Sorry, there weren't any purple sheep born!"

Yet Jacob never got angry. He never complained or fought with Laban. diligently did his job and accepted the losses from his SIL (Scammer In Law).





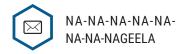


## Nageela Fun Fact

At the original Nageela West campus in Randolph, UT, once per summer was their sheep drive. About 3,000 sheep would pass through the camp in a noisy (but cute) mess. They once destroyed a volleyball net.



How much do you love being Jewish?



## **CONTINUED**

Finally, after twenty years working for Laban, Jacob and his family (which was pretty large by that time) picked up and left. They booked tickets and were waiting at the gate for their plane to take off (I may have taken some artistic license with the precise details). The gate agent had just called their row, when Laban showed up with airport security, claiming that Jacob had stolen from him! Even now, Jacob didn't lose it. He calmly allowed Laban to search all his carryons and his kids' backpacks.

Laban finished the search, not finding a single piece of misplaced lego or an odd sock that belonged to him. NOW. JACOB. GOT. ANGRY. The Torah quotes a long diatribe, Jacob finally expressing his frustration of the 20 years of dishonesty and abuse he'd suffered at Laban's hands.

Why now? After all that time remaining calm, which is pretty amazing. After not losing his cool even as Laban delayed his flight, why did he finally get angry now?

There's difference<sup>1</sup> between acting dishonestly toward' someone, and accusing him of acting dishonestly. Jacob could go his whole life being cheated and not get angry, because that was Laban's choice, not his own. Laban would

have to live with his own decisions. Even after Laban accused Jacob of stealing, he didn't get upset until everyone's bags were searched. Who knows, maybe someone had accidentally taken something (in reality, someone had, and Rachel was hiding something in her airplane pillow, but that's a topic for a different day). Once the search was complete and it was clear that the accusation was unfounded, now Jacob got angry. Accusing falsely is crossing a new line.

People do this kind of thing all the time. We project, which means we assume that other people act like we do and feel what we feel. Jacob was telling Laban - steal from me and cheat me, if you want. Swindle and sweet-talk me if you can. DO NOT PROJECT YOUR OWN FLAWS ONTO ME.

And that, my friends, is a lesson for us. First of all, board early so that your stuff can't be searched by angry relatives. But the real lesson is to understand how different people are, and not to fall into the Laban trap of projecting our own problems onto other

people. Sure everyone's got things they need to



# PARSHAL PARSHA

a brief summary of the weekly torah porshon

## PARSHAS VAYEITZEI- Well, well, well...

- JACOB SETS ON WHAT TURNS OUT TO BE A MANY YEAR JOURNEY AWAY FROM HIS PARENTS. ON THE WAY, HE STOPS AT A HOLY PLACE, ENCOUNTERS SOME TALKING ROCKS AND DREAMS OF ANGELS ON LADDERS. THE ANGELS REPRESENT A CHANGING OF THE GUARD, AS HE WAS EXCHANGING HIS 'ISRAEL GUARD' FOR HIS 'DIASPORA GUARD'.
- JACOB ARRIVES AT A WELL ON THE OUTSKIRTS OF THE TOWN. HE ROCKS THE ROLL, ERRR, HE ROLLS THE ROCK FROM THE TOP OF THE WELL, DESPITE ITS EXTREME WEIGHT, WHEN HE SEES RACHEL COMING WITH HER SHEEP.
- BTW, RACHEL AND LEAH WERE THE DAUGHTERS OF LABAN, WHICH MAKES THEM JACOB'S FIRST COUSINS. JACOB DECIDES TO MARRY RACHEL WHO WAS THE YOUNGER ONE (AS HE WAS).
- LABAN, WHO WAS JACOB'S UNCLE, TRIES AT EVERY TURN TO CHEAT JACOB. FIRST BY STEALING HIS PIECE OF PIE AT DESSERT, THEN BY SWAPPING DAUGHTERS AT THE LAST MOMENT, CAUSDING JACOB TO MARRY LEAH, INSTEAD OF RACHEL, WHOM HE PREFERRED.
- JACOB ENDS UP WORKING FOR LABAN FOR FOURTEEN YEARS, JUST FOR THE PRIVILEGE OF MARRYING HIS TWO DAUGHTERS. THEN HE WORKS ANOTHER 6 YEARS FOR SOME STRIPEY SHEEP.
- WHILE IN LABAN'S HOOD, JACOB AND HIS 4 WIVES (WAIT, 4? WHERE'D THEY COME FROM?) BEGIN TO BUILD A LARGE FAMILY.
  - FROM?) BEGIN TO BUILD A LARGE FAMILY. ACTUALLY, I'LL TELL YOU WHERE THEY CAME FROM. LABAN GIFTED LEAH AND RACHELEACHAMAID, BILHA (TO RACHEL) AND ZILPAH (TO LEAH). EVENTUALLY, THEY BECAME A TYPE OF PARTIAL WIFE THAT WAS KNOWN AS A PORCUPINE. OR SOMETHING LIKE THAT. CLEMENTINE? CONCUBINE? IT HAS SOMETHING TO DO WITH GETTING POKED WITH SHARP NEEDLES, I'M PRETTY SURE.
- LEAH GIVES BIRTH TO REUBEN, SIMEON, LEVI, JUDAH, YISSACHAR AND ZEBULUN. BILHAH HAS DAN AND NAPHTALI. ZILPAH GIVES BIRTH TO GAD AND ASHER. IN ALL THIS TIME, RACHEL HAS NOT BEEN ABLE



- FINALLY, RACHEL HAS A SON NAMED JOSEPH, AND JACOB DECIDES IT'S TIME TO GO BACK HOME TO HIS FAMILY.
- GOD ALSO DECIDES JACOB SHOULD RETURN TO CANAANANANANAN (AKA ISRAEL).
- JACOB TAKES HIS FAMILY AND GOES, BUT LABAN CHASES HIM DOWN. PARTIALLY BECAUSE RACHEL STOLE SOME OF HIS DOLLS. I MEAN IDOLS. (THAT JUST SOUNDS LIKE A LITTLE GIRL'S TOY MANUFACTURED BY APPLE. INTRODUCING THE IDOLL. OH, I SHOULD USE THAT FOR A PICKLE JEWS COMIC!)
- JACOB AND LABAN MAKE A TREATY THAT INVOLVES A PILE OF STONES. BECAUSE... YEAH, I REALLY DON'T KNOW WHAT THE STONES WERE ABOUT.
- ON HIS WAY BACK TO ISRAEL, 36 YEARS AFTER HE ORIGINALLY LEFT (ACCORDING TO RASHI'S COUNT), HE MEETS THE ISRAEL ANGELS AGAIN, BRINGING THIS PARSHA'S STORY FULL CIRCLE.



# Answer of the Week

In Jacob's dream, there is a ladder that reaches the heavens!



**200**DAYS TILL NAGEELA WEST GIRLS SESSION



225

DAYS TILL NAGEELA WEST BOYS SESSION

# STUMP THE RABBL

StumptheRabbi is a forum where kids can ask ANY Jewish question.

Have a question? Please send it in to stump@nageelawest.org

(Most) questions here are real. Names and some wording have been changed.

## **NOAHIDE AND SEEK**

Hi Rabbi,

I know that there are hundreds of commandments that Jews are supposed to keep. What about people who aren't Jewish? Are they allowed to just do whatever they want? Are there any rules for them? What's a Noahide?

Thanks, Jenny Tile

Dear Jen Tile,

Did you know that during the great flood, the children on the ark were playing a game of hide and seek. Then they convinced their dad to play, and soon it was time for Noahide... There is something called a Noahide and something called the Noahide laws (and no, they're not instructions about hide and seek), and I'll try to give you a brief explanation of what they are.

Way, way, way before the Torah was given to the Jewish people; even before there was such a thing as the Jewish people, there were still instructions for life that God provided. For example, the first people, Adam and Eve, were instructed NOT to eat from a certain tree. That didn't go so well, but it was 'their rule.' Later on, God gave certain other rules to live by and these became known as the Noahide laws. Simply put, a Noahide means someone who comes from Noah. Since all people come from Noah, it's just another word for a human who isn't specifically Jewish. Why are there more rules for Jews than for Noahides?

How strong does your arm have to be?

Weird question I guess. But if you're a standard human being, you need some muscle on your arm in order to write, carry groceries, or stir the macaroni in the pot. There's no need to have extremely powerful arms.

What if you're a quarterback, or a lumberjack or a boxer? Then your arms need to have lots of muscle, and you need to be able to pull, push, carry or throw a lot of weight. You may need to do special exercises to get the arm strength you need (like wrapping tefillin- good arm exercise).



world needs some 'moral muscles,' using exercises like not stealing and having a court system, the Jewish people are required to maintain a higher level of moral fitness. We need to exercise our morality with more mitzvos (giving charity, not taking revenge, stopping work once a week, being more careful about what we eat). So God gave the Noahides seven commandments, and gave the Jews a tougher regimen of 613. I'll list the seven below (I won't list the 613 because I don't have enough trees for that much paper), but there's really more than that.

Although Noahides aren't required to keep any more than these seven commandments, they may keep any other of the Torah's commandments, with the exception of Shabbos, which the Jews get exclusive rights to.

The Torah gives many examples of Noahides keeping, and indeed being required, to keep more than the basic seven commandments. All humans are required to be good, moral, honest and disciplined. These seven commandments are meant to be guideposts for finding morality. Did you know there are many groups of Noahides? There are actual communities and congregations of people who aren't Jewish, and are dedicated to keeping the 7 commandments and the parts of the Torah that are relevant. It's interesting to note that Jews do not believe everyone needs to be Jewish. That's why we don't look for converts, and that fits in with the idea of having a set of rules and morality for those who aren't Jewish. Anyway, here's a list of the seven commandments and a brief explanation of each:

- Idolatry- It is forbidden to worship any foreign gods. It's impossible to be truly moral without a compass that directs you.
- 2. Blasphemy- Respect for God includes being careful not to curse God's name.
- 3. Murder- Value for life is a requirement for a moral life.
- 4. Adultery- A person must be commit-









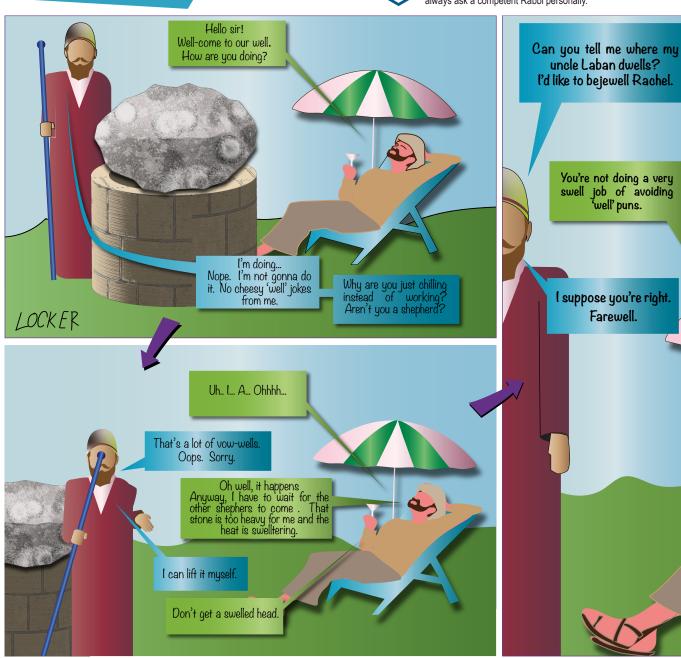
- **CONTINUED FROM** ▲ ted and consistent in their relation ships.
- 5. Stealing- People must respect one another's property and boundaries. This includes honesty in business and life.
- 6. Courts- A society must establish a sys-
- tem of justice and courts.
- 7. Cruelty- The technical commandment is not to eat a part of a living animal, which is one of the cruelest things a person could possibly do.

Have a Nageela Shabbos,

## The Rabbi



**Note & Disclaimer:** 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. The answers here should not be taken as halachic decisions. You should always ask a competent Rabbi personally.





## **Happy Birthdays!**

Zevi Frid Eli Banner Rabbi Locker

Levi Guttman Sean Perry Joshua Rafaeil



Nageela Shabbos is a weekly publication of Nageela West Coast, Joyfully Jewish Experiences.



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