

NAGEELA SHABBOS

Have-a

Shemini 5781
April 9th, 2021

SEASON 5 EPISODE 24

a kid friendly publication of Nageela West Coast Joyfully Jewish Experiences



The Rabbi(d) Dog

by Rabbi Dani Locker

A wise and scholarly Rabbi was on vacation, when he met another 'rabbi' vacationing in the same resort. After a few minutes of conversation, it became clear that this dude was only a Rabbi in name, but he didn't actually know anything about halacha- Jewish practice and law.

"When people come to you with questions, how do you answer them? You really don't know enough to give them the right answer!"

"That's no problem," replied the unscholarly fellow. "When I'm unsure (which is often) I just tell them it's forbidden! This way we're safe."

The sagacious scholar sighed and said, "Let me tell you about Herschel."

Herschel owned a chicken farm out in the middle of the country. It was a good half day wagon ride from the big city, so he tried not to make the trip too

often.

About once a week he would bring a cage full of chickens to the city and visit the Shochet- the man who would slaughter the birds in the kosher way. Then he would bring the birds back home and prepare them to sell for people's Shabbat meals.

You might not know this, but even if an animal is slaughtered correctly, it's possible for it to not be Kosher (details which I won't go into today). In modern times, Kosher chicken factories have Rabbis on staff to immediately check the birds and determine their Kosher status. Back then, it was much more complicated. You'd have to show each



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Candle lighting

Honolulu	6:30
Scottsdale	6:36
Henderson	6:51
Las Vegas	6:51
San Diego	6:56
Irvine	7:00
Los Angeles	7:02
Reno	7:13
Oakland	7:21
Park City	7:41

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

deep thoughts

TODAY IS THE OLDEST YOU'VE EVER BEEN AND THE YOUNGEST YOU'LL EVER BE AGAIN

chicken to the Rabbi and then he'd decide if it was toast or if it was soup. Since Herschel lived so far from the city, it was a major pain for him each time he would have a Kosher question on one of his fowl. He would have to shlepp with a newly prepared bird, get the rabbi's opinion, then get it back to his farm on time to sell it before the fowl turned foul. Then one day, he stopped.

Here's what happened. Herschel had been complaining to his friend Velvel about his poultry problem, and Velvel had an easy solution, quoting this week's Torah portion. "The Torah tells us that when you have meat that's not Kosher, you should throw it to the dog. If that's true, you can use your dog instead of the Rabbi! When you're unsure about a chicken, put it in front of your dog. If he eats it, that will mean it's not kosher. If the dog passes it up, that will tell you it's kosher." Herschel decided to take his friend's advice and replace his Rabbi with a dog (disclaimer, in case you were wondering- Velvel was wrong, and using a dog to rule on Jewish

law doesn't actually work). Whenever he had a questionable capon, he would give it to the dog. The dog, unsurprisingly, always ate the birds. Herschel stoically accepted the canine's harsh decisions- you don't question the Rabbi (he may have been 'rabid', that's almost 'rabbi', right?).

About a year later, Herschel brought a slaughtered chicken to the old Rabbi in the city. "Where have you been for the past year?"

Herschel told him.

"So why did you decide to come to me this time?"

"The dog was too strict!"

The Torah gives us lots of guidance about how to live our lives. Many times, it is unclear which way to go. Should I say this? May I eat this? Is this course of action a good idea? Some people have an attitude that when they're unsure, they just ignore the rules. Clearly that's not what God had in mind. Others are so strict that whenever there's any doubt at all, they just assume it's forbidden. The moral of this story is that if you want to just assume everything is 'unkosher', even a dog can do that. If we truly want the guidance of 'What does God want?' we need to ask an expert. It's vital that we each have a Rabbi and mentor to ask our questions to. A Rabbi who understands Jewish law, and knows us well so that we can truly get to the truth, is not birdbrained, and isn't too chicken to say something is OK.

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COMING THIS WEEK

SUNDAY- Las Vegas Hebrew School

MONDAY- Las Vegas Jewnior Latte N' Learn

WEDNESDAY- Orange County in person event!

WEDNESDAY- Park City in person event!

THURSDAY- LA Valley in person event!

THURSDAY- LA City in person event!

+virtual Israel celebration- CONTACT US FOR DETAILS

HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

Best wishes to our friends and family members celebrating this week...

Ezra Arovas
Yehuda Leiter
Alex Sefia
Anne Musser
Daniel Lerner
Natan Goldman



Did you hear about the synagogue where they eat batteries?

Yeah. They are acidic Jews

OUCH! GRRRRROAAAN!

Have a better joke and want a shoutout in Nageela Shabbos? Just email it to dlocker@nageelawest.org

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.

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

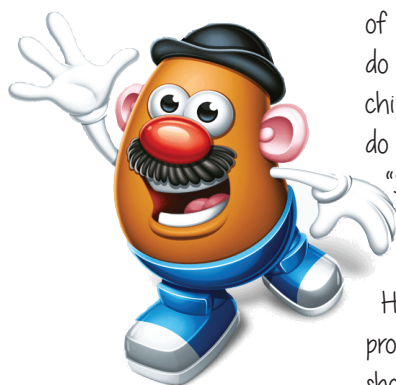


#166 To Eat or Not To Eat

Hi Rabbi,

You know how some foods are kosher and some are not? Why? I mean why are some foods kosher, why does God want us to eat kosher, why do some kosher foods become unkosher when they get mixed with other things, and why do random items need kosher symbols?

Thanks,
Lotta Schmaltz



Dear Lotta,

There are many parts to your question, so I'll take it one step at a time, and we'll probably need 2-3 weeks to cover all the things you asked.

Let's start with one fact you might not have known. Only products from the animal kingdom can possibly be unkosher.

Now that the initial shock has faded, I'll repeat that for emphasis: **ONLY** products from the animal kingdom can possibly be *unkosher. I see you nearly jumping out of your seat. You want to ask, "Then why do we need kosher certification on potato chips? Wait, are potatoes animals? They do have eyes..." No, potatoes aren't animals. "So is salad automatically kosher?" Also, no. "Wait a minute. There are no animals in Skittles, I'm pretty sure..."

Here's the thing. Although only animal products can be unkosher, you'd be shocked at how many vegetarian products

have some animal stuff inside them. Here's a bit of a list (trigger alert, some of this stuff is gross):

Carmine is a red dye made from crushed up bugs. It's in loads of candies and drinks including, yup, Skittles.

Cochineal is similar, and is found in several starbucks drinks.

Animal fat or lard is commonly used in products from potato chips and french fries to salad dressings, refried beans and Hostess Twinkies.

Like Gummy bears or marshmallows? They have gelatin, which is made from crushed animal bones. Yummmmm.

Castoreum comes from beavers, and is often used in ice cream.

Oh, and real live insects. Yes, if you buy a head of romaine lettuce or broccoli fresh, even if you wash it pretty well, you're still going to get bugs in it.

That was THING 1. Here comes THING 2. Even if there are no direct animal pieces

REGISTRATION IS UNDERWAY FOR
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JEWTAH

3 WEEKS, SPORTS, HORSEMANSHIP, NATURE,
FRIENDSHIPS, CREATIVE SPECIALTIES, WATER
SPORTS, JEWISH PRIDE AND EXCITEMENT!

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7

4

DAYS TO CAMP NAGEELA WEST
GIRLS SESSION

1

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DAYS TO CAMP NAGEELA WEST
BOYS SESSION

Find out about our summer 2021 and see photos from 2020 at nageelawest.org

Stump the Rabbi

continued

in food, it may have animal flavor. You see, when you cook, bake, fry, roast, toast, boil, broil, grill, braise, sear, saute or simmer food, the pots, pans, ladles and spatulas absorb some of that flavor. If you roast, say, a zucchini on a sheet pan that once held pork chops, a bit of the pork flavor goes into your squash. This makes it almost impossible to be sure any item is kosher, if it's made in a

factory that makes other stuff too. It is usual for a vegetable canning facility to also can meats. So your canned beans might be made on the same machine as pork and beans, bacon or Chef Boyardee Ravioli.

Based on those two troublemaker THINGS, the only way to be sure your meats are kosher, and your NON-MEATS have no animal products inside, is for a reliable Kosher agency to inspect the restaurant, factory or kitchen and

certify that everything is indeed Kosher. Next week we will begin to discuss some of the 'why's.

Have a Nageela Shabbat,

the Rabbi

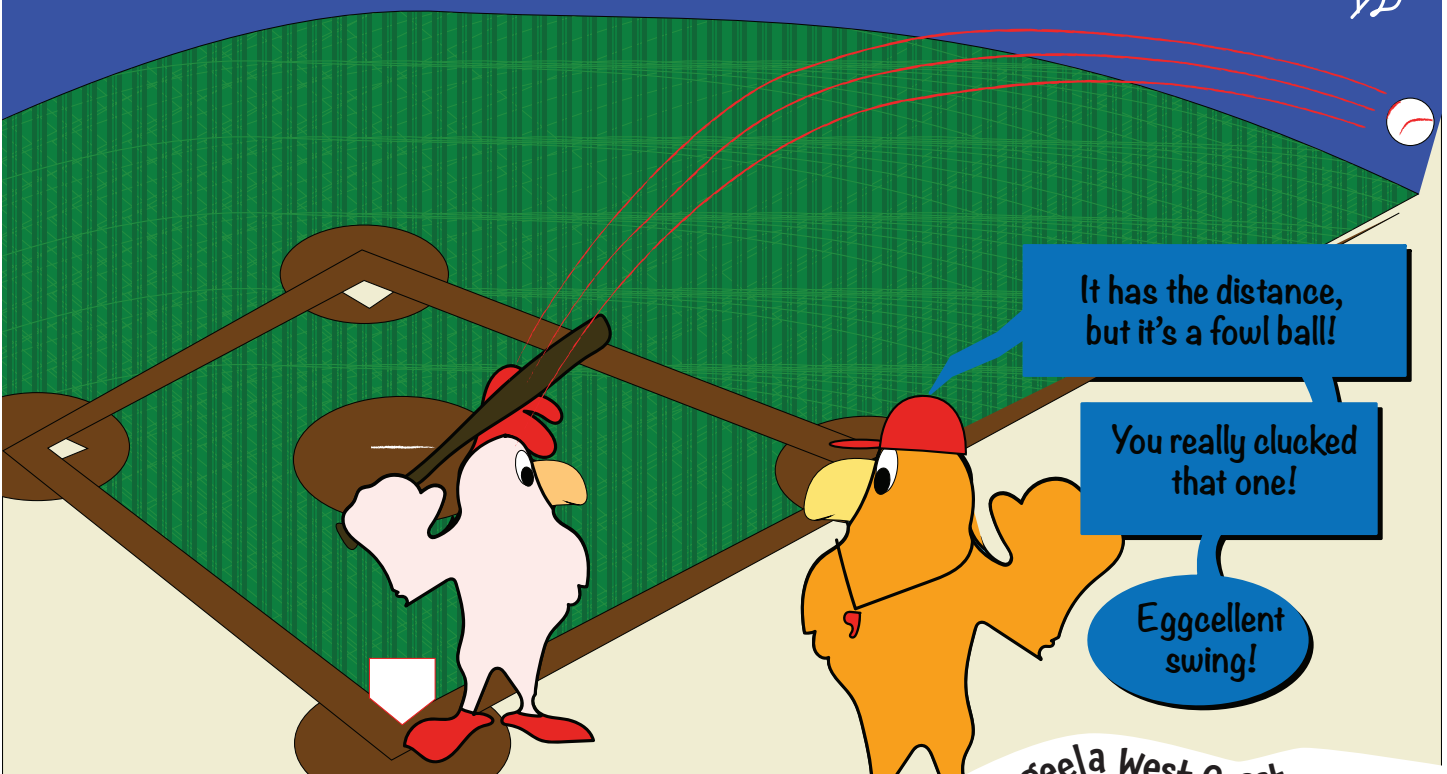
*I'll admit, there are a few other food restrictions that aren't 'technically' Kosher rules but still restrict what you eat, and some of these apply to the plant kingdom as well. Hopefully we'll get to those next week.

PICKLE JEWS

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HOW TO COACHER A CHICKEN

DL



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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.