

have a Nageela Shabbos

A Kid Friendly Weekly Publication of Nageela West Coast Joyfully Jewish Experiences

Candle Lighting:
Scottsdale 6:26
Henderson 6:40
Las Vegas 6:41
San Diego 6:47
Irvine 6:50
Los Angeles 6:52
Reno/ Tahoe 7:00

Season 4
Episode 18

The Loud Cloud

by Rabbi Dani Locker



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The sheriff was not happy.

It was the summer of 2017, and our camp was situated in Big Bear, California. Our facility was very centrally located, and was only a short walk to the lake, which was convenient. The downside was how close we were to the other resorts and homes. The other downside, we had to rent a tent to use for our dining room. Our dining tent was large and fun, and we had a great time in it. This particular Friday night, we were in the middle of our Shabbos singing. If you haven't been to Camp Nageela West, here's a spoiler alert: We. Are. Loud. The sheriff had arrived on multiple complaints of 'loud music' and told us to turn down our speakers. "You should not be using amplified music at night."

"But officer, we're not using amplified music. It's just our voices."

"The people across the road are complaining of extremely loud music. Are you having a rave or something?"

"No officer. We're just singing."

This went on for a while, ME, trying to explain how our Shabbos singing could be mistaken for a rock concert; the sheriff trying to convince me that kids could not possibly be so loud without amplification. Eventually, the officer told me I could download an app that would measure the decibel level of our singing (which of course, I waited till after Shabbos to download).

"If you're not as loud as trucks passing by, then they can't complain."

They did anyway.

Whenever we try to be heard, we're competing against other sounds. The refrigerator hums at about 40db. A motorcycle runs at around 95db. Firecrackers are about 150db (which can cause immediate hearing damage). The sound a potato chip bag makes when you're sneaking a snack during class is about 10,000db. I know.

How loud is God's voice? How many decibels?

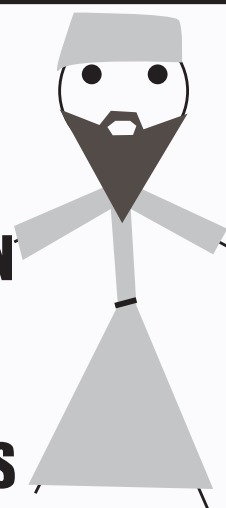
Well, God spoke to Moses inside the Mishkan (the temporary sanctuary), and nobody outside heard it. Was it so soft? Did the curtains of the Mishkan really insulate the sound so drastically? The Midrash says that God's voice is strong enough to shatter trees. I tried to shatter a tree once. It hurt. If God's voice is so powerful, why wasn't it heard outside the Mishkan?

CONTINUED ON PAGE 4

**THIS IS
MOSES**

**MOSES
LISTENS WHEN
GOD SAYS
STUFF**

BE LIKE MOSES



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Nageela Shabbos to hundreds more people!

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please contact dlocker@
nageelawest.org

Hi Rabbi,

Astronauts

I was spacing out on Shabbat, and I turned the light out in the bathroom. My sister wanted to kill me. I normally keep Shabbat. Did I do something bad?

Aksana Dent



**stump the
rabbi**

Dear Aksa Dent

I also spaced out once, about 35 years ago. How long did it last? So far, about 35 years... I'll let you know when it ends. We humans tend to do that a lot. We space out. We slip. We sleepwalk. We get put under Imperius curses. There are many times we act without thinking. One of our goals in life has to be to think more. Judaism trains us to think. To thank God before we eat, to consider what clothing is made of before we wear it, and to check our calendar before we work.

Still, ppl r gonna b ppl. Folks are always going to forget things. So here's how it works.

LEVEL 1: There's something called an accident. No, not that kind. An accident is something you have no control over. If you fall down the stairs (ouch), landing on a toy car, which slips out and knocks into the broom which was against the wall, tipping it toward a pan of eggs on the stove... The pan flips and the eggs land on top of a toy train, knocking it off its track onto the bookshelf... starting an avalanche of books that land on a soccer ball which then bounces up and hits a vase which falls and shatters, the pieces flying into a lightswitch... you're not responsible for turning the light on (you may still be responsible for the damage to the vase, but that's a question for a different week). The same thing would be true if a person pushes your hand and you have no control over the action. You're not responsible for things you had no control over.

LEVEL 2: Monkey actions. When people do stuff with no thought at all (you're yawning and your hand hits the switch), the talmud calls that "A monkey's action." It's a completely unintelligent action. You're usually not going to be responsible for those (although you should be more careful

next time).

LEVEL 3:

Inadvertent actions. What on Earth is inadvertent. It must be the opposite of advertent. Is

that even a word? Either way, this category is your typical space-out situation. You didn't think about whether what you were eating was kosher. You habitually shut the light when leaving the bathroom. You built a skyscraper out of zip ties, not realizing it was Yom Kippur. That's typical, right? In this situation, you had control of your action. It was intelligent, it just isn't **THOUGHTFUL**. We are supposed to be thoughtful, and therefore we are partially responsible. The Torah doesn't consider this quite as serious as the next

category, but it still could require a sacrifice (during temple times) and certainly requires sincere regret and repentance. One step to fix the problem is to tape the light switches, or do whatever it takes to prevent inadvertent programs. Let's get rid of inadvertentness.

People who don't understand the concepts of God and the mitzvot, or if you haven't learned the rules of a certain mitzvah, that would usually fall into this category.

BTW, in case you're thinking, "Hey, I'll make sure not to learn much, so I'll always be a category 3, and never make it to level 4. Yeah, no. That doesn't work. If you have the chance to learn and avoid learning, then that would make you a level 4.

LEVEL 4: I'm hungry. No, really, I am. I've barely eaten today. Level 4 is when you know what



Judaism
trains us to
think before
we act

*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.*

you're doing is against the Torah, yet you're not doing it because you're a bad person. You fall prey to weakness. You eat what you shouldn't because you're hungry and it looks delicious. You turn on a light on Shabbat because it's dark and you're uncomfortable. You eat pizza on Passover because, well... pizza. This is serious. Everyone stumbles sometimes, and it's important for us all to work on our self control so this doesn't happen.

LEVEL 5: The Anti- God club. This is for people

who totally get it. They understand God. They're not hungry. They just like doing the wrong thing specifically to rebel against God. I don't think I've ever met anyone in this category. If you meet someone like this, please make sure to tell them that God still loves them, and He's really hoping they change their minds.

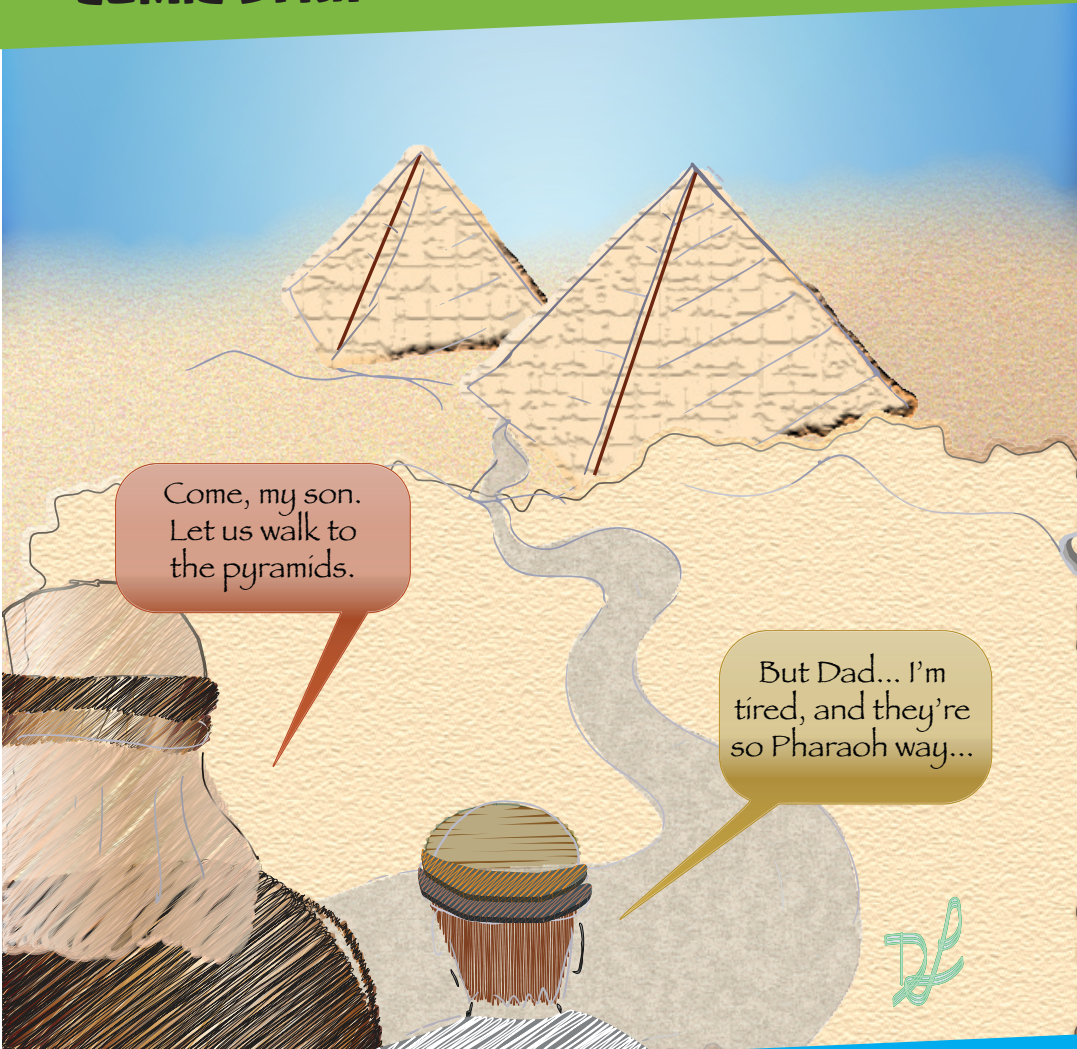
the Rabbi.

Ncsp+

Live Web Show featuring games, contests & Prizes
Original songs, freestyle rap, special
guests, mediocre jokes
Every Thurs. at 5

PICKLE JEWS

GALACTICALLY SYNDICATED
COMIC STRIP



Come, my son.
Let us walk to
the pyramids.

But Dad... I'm
tired, and they're
so Pharaoh way...

DEEP THOUGHTS

If they're
called apart-
ments, why
are they
so close
together?



HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

Happy Birthday to
family members
celebrating this week!

Haddar Ben- Shimon
Myles Glick
Aaron Goldklang
Abby Eichner
Rivki Cherrick

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

It's not about decibels. It's about frequency. Moses was on the right frequency, the right radio station to hear God's voice. For the rest of the Jews at that time, God's voice just wasn't audible to them, because they were not intellectually and emotionally prepared to hear it.

We all often look without seeing, and listen without hearing. God speaks to us all the time in ways that can not be measured by decibel scale apps. Through world events. Through things that happen in our own lives, both happy and challenging. God is constantly speaking to us. Like Moshe, we should make sure to open ourselves to hitting the right frequency and hearing what God has to say.

Watch the Rabbi Locker YouTube channel for our new Kinda Clear videos with a Kahoot challenge!



DID JEW KNOW?

This week, we begin the 3rd of the Torah's 5 books. The one is called Vayikra (or Leviticus). Did you know that there's another name for the book? It's called TORAS KOHANIM - Instructions for Kohanim. Most of the book deals with details of the Mishkan, the Beis Hamikdash and the various offerings and service.

Now is a great time to contact us & find out more info about our incredible Grand Tour featuring Mount Rushmore!



DAYS TO CAMP
NAGEELA WEST GIRLS
SESSION

DAYS TO CAMP
NAGEELA WEST BOYS
SESSION

Find out about our Grand Tour 2020 and see photos from GT2019 at nageelawest.org

VIRTUAL HAVDALLAH RABBI LOCKER

sat nite
8:30



<https://zoom.us/j/3174277225>
ZOOM ID: 317-427-7225



What breed of dog can jump
higher than a building?

All of them. Buildings can't jump.

OUCH! GROAN!

got a better joke?

Email it to dlocker@nageelawest.org



Nageela West 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.

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