

HAVE A NAGEELA SHABBOS

KID FRIENDLY TORAH MAGAZINE
A PROJECT OF NAGEELA WEST COAST,
JOYFULLY JEWISH EXPERIENCES

SEASON 10, EPISODE 17

PARSHAS KI SISA
5786

DVAR TORAH

GIVE IT UP

“Severus, please...”

This is a big spoiler alert, so if you haven't read the seventh book in a series about a British child wizard, don't continue. Actually, who am I kidding. If you haven't read it by now, it's never gonna happen. Go right ahead, just mind the spoiler alert. If you're one of those literate types, I think you'll appreciate this connection.

So yeah, Snape kills Dumbledore, but really Snape is a good guy. How does that work out? It's a story right out of this week's Torah portion.

Let's try to unpack some of the really crazy story that unfolds. Moses is the greatest leader in Jewish history. He's at the height of his greatness, having just, in the past few months, lead the Jews out of Egypt, parted the sea, and ascended, above Mount Sinai, to heaven itself to receive the Torah. In a

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Torat Scene-A-Eye

This features an AI generated picture that has numerous hints to the weekly parsha.
This week's is about Parshas Ki Sisa



Disclaimer: These AI generated images are NOT meant to portray actual people or events from the Torah. They are simply hints to get you thinking.



LOLZ

Some people ask me where I get all my dad jokes.

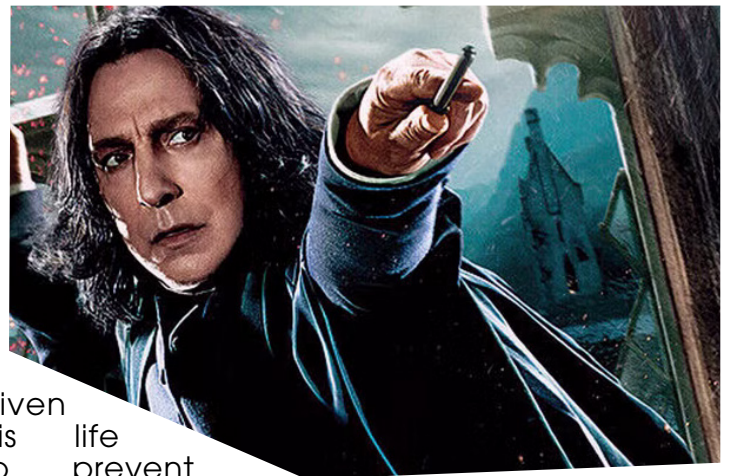
I have a dad base.

baffling panic move, the Jewish people get all anxious that Moses seems to have disappeared, and when he doesn't arrive back on time, they don't consider that he got stuck in heavenly traffic. Instead they decide they need a replacement (either a leader or a god, depending on who's asking). They approach the interim leader, Aaron, the High priest and brother of Moses, begging him to fix their problems.

Aaron knows this is a really, really bad idea. So does the other provisional leader, his nephew, Chur. Chur protests and gets shut down pretty hard (like, fatally hard). Aaron doesn't think it would be wise to die for the cause so he tries to stall, asking everyone to mount a large fundraising campaign of all their wives' and children's jewelry. Annoyingly this doesn't take nearly long enough and Aaron is faced with the difficult decision of what to do now. Does he help them create a false god? Does he protest and give up his life, just as his holy nephew Chur? Aaron is

CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE

DVAR TORAH



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one of the all time greats. Surely he's willing to give up his life rather than help the Jewish people practice idolatry... right?

So why did Snape kill Dumbledore? Dumbledore knew that young Draco Malfoy, a child on the brink of evil, but who had not fully embraced 'the dark side' (I know that reference just caused some people much pain), had been ordered to kill him. Dumbledore also knew that if Draco would follow these orders, it would tip him over the edge to a point of no return in his journey to bad-boy land. One more important ingredient is that Dumbledore was dying himself and knew he would not last much longer, so he begged his trusted double agent, Severus Snape, to kill him, to save Malfoy from blackening his soul.

This was Aaron's rationale. Aaron was not afraid for his own life. He would have willingly

given his life to prevent idolatry. Yet he knew that the Jewish people killing the high priest would have been really, really bad. AND then they would have made a false god, anyway. So Aaron takes it upon himself to save the Jewish people from blackening their heart through murder, and through direct idolatry. Aaron bit the bullet, to save his nation from doing the same thing.

It is certainly hard to sacrifice your life. But it's way harder to sacrifice your legacy. Aaron's willingness to tarnish his own, in the pursuit of saving the Jewish people's purity is an amazing lesson for all of us, hoping to make a difference in the world. What are YOU willing to give up?



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