

have a

Nageela Shabbos

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Don't Kill Your Brother, if possible

by Rabbi Dani Locker

Have you ever heard people talk about how great it was 'back in the old days?'

"In the old days, we had respect. In the old days, we are our vegetables 3 meals a days and we loved it... we walked to school uphill, both ways, in the snow, in the summer, barefoot... we all studied 14 hours a day and still had time to milk the cows before dinner..."

Sometimes, looking back on history is great. There are so many awesome people whose example we can learn from. There are also characters and periods in history best not to learn from. Or better yet, to learn what NOT to do. Take for example the very first two people to be born, Cain and Abel. Also, the first story of murder. To make a relatively short story even shorter, the two brothers decided to bring offerings to G-d from their income. Cain, from the plants he'd grown, Abel with some of his flock of animals.

Only, Cain brought some of the cheap stuff, and Abel brought top quality animals. G-d accepted the good stuff only. Cain was really bummed and acted the way any annoyed sibling... actually, never mind that. Let's just say he didn't take it well.

You know, the Torah doesn't just tell us random stories. You'll never read about one of the tribes stubbing his toe while tending Jacob's sheep, or which one of the prophets caught a cold because he didn't wear his fur turban on a cold desert night. The Torah only tells us the stories from which we can learn valuable lessons. What lesson can we possibly learn from this horrible episode (except maybe not to trust your brother. Believe me, I knew that already)?

Just before the brutal act was committed, G-d spoke to Cain and told him, "Behold, if you are good, you will succeed, and if you do not do good, sin hops at the door." Cain was upset because

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STUMP
THE RABBI

RABBI



Hey Rabbi,

I have cats and can't light candles cause they might knock them over. How can I light Shabbat candles?

Thanks,

In the Dark

Dear Dark,

It's awesome that you care so much about Shabbat to ask this question! First of all, please make sure you get the thumbs up from your parents before ever lighting candles.

It's certainly no mitzvah to burn your house down, so you do have to be careful. In our home, we installed a high shelf that pets and small children can't reach (with my height, I have trouble too). If you have a high shelf with enough safe space to walls and ceilings, that's probably your best bet. Using a sink is also a pretty cool idea, because even if your candles get knocked down, it won't start a fire.

If there's absolutely no way to light candles safely, or if you're in a hotel or hospital room, you can turn on an electric light and make the blessings.

*Have an awesometastic Shabbos,
Rabbi Locker*

Stump the Rabbi is a forum where kids can ask ANY Jewish question.

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

have a Nageela Shabbos

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**VERY
PUNNY**

**HOW DOES MOSES
MAKE HIS COFFEE?**

HE-BREWS IT!

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

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G-d accepted Abel's offering and not his own. Instead of taking responsibility for his mistake, he got upset at his bro. Which, by the way, is totally uncool. G-d's message to Cain was, Hey, buddy. If you do good, if YOU make your own positive choices, you'll be in good shape. If you don't make the right choices, then sin is waiting to play hopscotch with you. You've got to take responsibility for your own actions and not blame somebody else.

I'm gonna do better next time," the terrible result would never have come to pass.

This is the Torah's lesson to us. We've got to step up and take responsibility for our mistakes. They're not anyone else's fault. Making a mistake is part of what makes us human. Owning up to it and improving is what makes us awesomer (I'm pretty sure that's not a word, but I like it).

Sure, Cain made a terrible mistake by being cheap with his gift. Had he just said, "Oops, my bad."

Try to be awesomer.

Have A Nageela Shabbos

**DOES YOUR
CHILD KNOW
HER ABG'S**

**ALEF, BET, GIMMEL
IS EASIER TO LEARN
YOUNG. WE MAKE IT FUN!**



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