

Let Them Eat Cake?

[Inbox / Issue 825]

We have been following the conversation regarding Shoshana Friedman's Screenshot about the missing ads. We were horrified by someone's comment, "As far as those who are losing parnassah, let us daven that they find other ways to make ends meet." That read like a modern-day "let them eat cake." The cavalier attitude regarding someone else's parnassah is astounding.

Furthermore, we would like to remind your readers about not judging other people's spending and purchases. An *adam gadol* once said that we all have two eyes: one to see what we do wrong and the other to see what everyone else does right. Let's all strive for that ideal and be *zocheh* to celebrate simchahs in Klal Yisrael.

ZC and Dena
Monticello, NY

Bernie Sanders in Your Inbox

[Inbox / Issue 825]

It was troubling to read a letter from Bernie Sanders in last week's *Mishpacha* Inbox. I didn't realize you were in the habit of running Communist manifestos in your magazine.

I'm referring, of course, to the letter with the whimsical albeit misguided *mashal* urging everyone to shut down the "pizza stores" because "everyone was gaining weight."

Parables are always limited in their ability to capture reality, but this one was really ridiculous. Does every single person in our community have a spending problem? Does every single person make weddings they can't afford? (Does every single person gain weight from pizza and does every single person have an inability to stop at one or two slices?)

There are plenty of people with limited incomes who are more than happy to use the *takanah* halls for their simchahs. There are plenty of people who are honest

about what they can and can't spend, and live their lives accordingly. There are also plenty of people with deep pockets who can make luxurious simchahs without being irresponsible.

Then, of course, there are some people who wish they had more money, or wish to give off the impression they have more money. These people have a problem. They need an education in responsible spending. They don't need to "shut down every pizza store" and institute a single standard for all.

The Torah has a concept of a "*korban oleh v'yoreid*." This is a *korban* whose value fluctuates according to the means of the person bringing it. We're not all meant to live at the same standard or make the same types of simchahs.

Tell Bernie Sanders to stay out of *Mishpacha*, and let's hope those socialist ideals stay out of our community's consciousness as well.

Moshe Licht

Estrangement, not Alienation

[Inbox / Issue 825]

Reading through the Inbox in last week's *Mishpacha*, I spotted the word "alienation" in a letter from "A son-in-law in pain." As the director of a group for alienated parents, my ears instantly perked up.

After rereading both your Lifelines story "Crushed Apple" and its response, I was concerned that your readership will now associate alienated children with harsh and aggressive parenting. This is not necessarily the truth. Contrary to what the letter writer implies, alienation is not about the fallout of a parent-child

relationship. Rather it is the culmination of a ploy by a third party known as "the Alienator."

The goal of the alienator is to impress on the child that his mother or father was unloving and failed to protect him. Sadly, utilizing manipulative tactics, which are often deceptive or take things out of context, it is possible to do so.

Your Lifelines story "Crushed Apple" more closely reflects a term known as "estrangement." In this phenomenon, children will reject parents who actually hurt them.

Unfortunately many people tend to confuse these two terms. I thought it significant to clarify this so that grieving parents who are experiencing true alienation can receive the love and support from family and friends that is so crucial to their survival.

It may interest your readership to know that there is a support group for alienated parents with over 200 members, all from the *frum* heimishe community. For many of our members, our group is the first place they found true understanding for their plight. We have also developed many projects to bring awareness to our community at large in the hope of reuniting families.

May all Hashem's children find healing and be reunited with their loved ones,

G.W.

Director, Broken Ties

Simply Not Enough

[Each and Every Word / Issue 825]

A big *yasher koach* to my childhood friend, Rabbi Pesach Siegel, for his words of appreciation for the Telsher Rosh Yeshiva, a master of the word, and one who saw

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thanks all of our readers for their letters and comments. Due to printing deadlines, most letters can only be published two weeks after they are received. The editor reserves the right to edit and shorten letters. All letters will be considered for publication unless otherwise indicated. We urge our readers to keep their letters as brief and to the point as possible. Letters not meant for publication may be any length.

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