

Shabbat Shalom!

I sometimes get a little bit jealous of my older brother Aaron. He is two and a half years older than I am, so he almost always gets cool stuff before me. Although, that is usually the way it works, it can still be a bit aggravating, watching my brother, play with his new toy, when I don't have the same thing. Ever since I was small, there was always that one thing that I was looking forward to getting when I was his age. It started at the age of 5. Aaron got his first bike! I was stuck on the attachment on the the back of my parents bike. Its ok though because only a few years later I got my first bike! Only to find out it was his old one, and I especially didn't like the fact that it had spiderman all over it. It is just something that I guess I have to deal with. Sure he will get to drive first, and his room may be bigger, but I can't let Jealousy take control of me.

At the end of the day, I don't mind that Aaron has all of these things, because I know that I will always be the favourite child.

Jealousy can be a very hurtful trait.

This week we read parashat Naso. This parashat is found in the book of Numbers. Along with other topics, it talks about the laws and punishments of a wife who is suspected of committing adultery. These laws and punishments are due the husband being jealous. It starts when The Kohan makes the wife uncover her hair and drink

sota water, otherwise known as “bitter water”. If she is innocent, she will have a child. If she is guilty, she will suffer many bad consequences. In the case of the torah, the woman is considered guilty until she is proven innocent when she has been suspected of committing this sin. All that is really needed to suffer all of these consequences is a jealous husband. Jealousy can affect anyone; no matter how young or old, big or small, or what gender. A commentary states though, that when a woman is suspected of adultery, she has to undergo a series of cruel tasks. But, when a man is being accused of this sin, there is no trial of any sort to prove him innocent or guilty. The only punishment is he has to deal with his guilt.

The word jealousy, is used in the bible 80 times including in this weeks parasha. According to encyclopedia judaica, the definition of jealousy is: any kind of emotional anxiety from a threat, to one's honour.

Meaning that we don't just get jealous because of something material we don't have, but also from someone not acknowledging us with the way we want to be recognized. From this we understand that jealousy can create lots of stress.

Mishnah Pirkei Evot clearly states in hebrew:

That jealousy מוציאין את-האדם מין העולם , which is translated as: that jealousy removes a person from the earth. I was confused when I read this. What does it mean removing someone up from the earth?

Our sidor says that it means that it could ruin someones life. But if you really think about it, it could really mean dying because of jealousy. The stress of jealousy, could lead to heart attacks and other stress related illnesses, or it could mean that jealousy removes someone's regular life from the earth. A person can change according to his jealousy. If you get severely jealous of someone, it could change your personality forever.

Jealousy doesn't have to always be bad, it can sometimes push us harder to achieve our goals. Sometimes inspiration can be mistaken as jealousy. But we have to be careful with our jealousness, because it can harm yourself and other people around you. Unfortunately I had a hard time concluding my d'var torah. And I've heard my friends end theirs so well. Don't worry though, this doesn't mean that I am jealous. I'm just inspired.

Shabbat Shalom!