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Lending a Helping Hand



Laurie Maurer

US Education

Here is a dilemma: You're walking along the taxi rank at the airport on your way to catch a flight to a sunny destination. Whilst walking, you see an older person struggling to lift their heavy suitcase. Would you:

- a) Ignore it; it's none of your business and you've got a flight to catch!
- b) Go over and offer to help them pick up their luggage and put it on a trolley so they can push it into the airport.

It is very easy for us to think that

no one would want us to touch their luggage, in fact we are taught that we shouldn't let anyone else take our bags as this could lead to it either being taken or something dangerous being placed in it.

However, the Torah would tell us that option B is the only choice! It gives a less relatable example:

"If you see your fellow's donkey or ox has fallen into the road, do not conceal yourself from them, you must pick it up with him" (Devarim 22:4).

If we see someone struggling with something, we should do all we can to help them. The Torah uses very interesting words though; it could have said, for example, 'don't walk by'. However, the word used is '*vehitalamta*', which is often translated as ignoring, but as

you can see above, it can also be translated as 'concealing yourself'.

Have you ever seen something happening and pretended you hadn't? For instance, you saw someone dropping their books and looked in the other direction so you could fool yourself into thinking it never happened?

The Torah is reminding us that actually, our instincts are to help someone no matter what. If we are choosing option A, ignoring the situation, we are actually lying to ourselves, hiding from our core instinct, which is to shoulder the burdens of our fellow human being. This is the spiritual DNA we received from our forefather Avraham and this should be who we are as proud Jews; always kind, caring and willing to lend a hand.

Maisie's Maze

Help Maisie carry her heavy bag to airport check-in

