



THE TRIBE SCRIBE

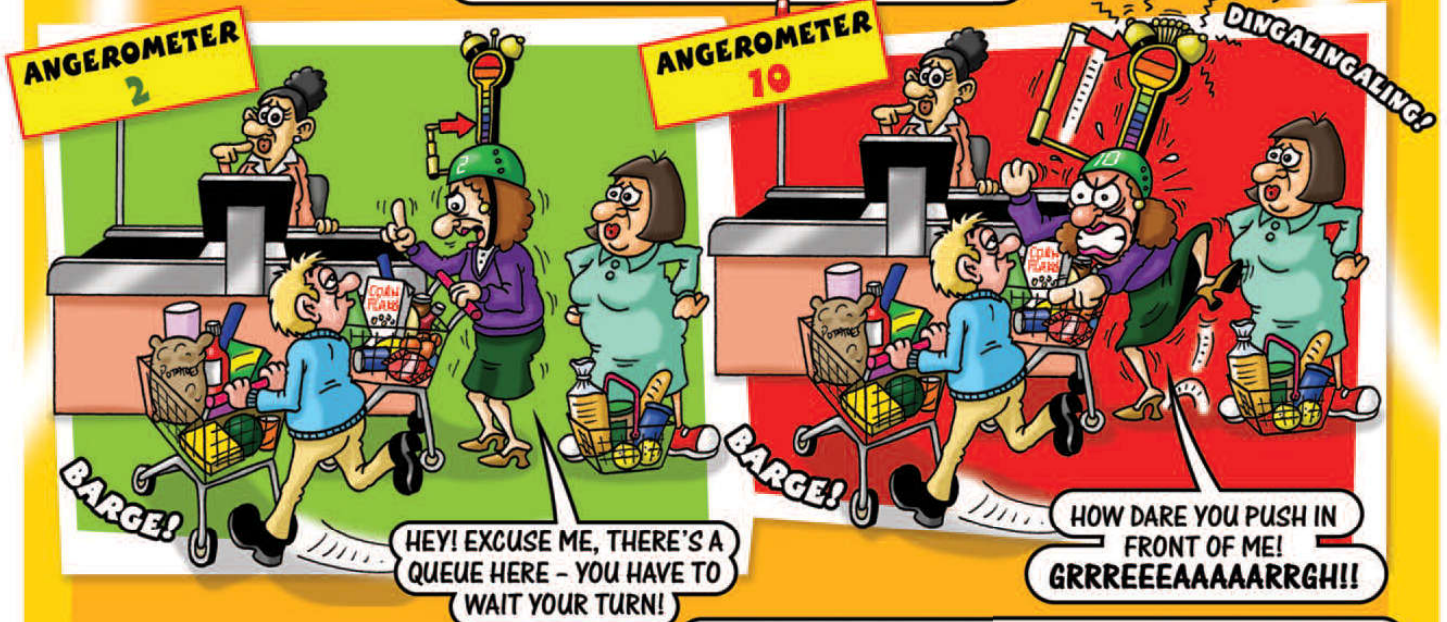
BALAK - THREE WEEKS: HATING HATRED!



THIS WEEK IS THE 17TH TAMMUZ - THE START OF THE THREE WEEK PERIOD WHEN WE MOURN THE LOSS OF THE BEIT HAMIKDASH. LET ME GET THIS STRAIGHT, THE BEIT HAMIKDASH WAS DESTROYED BECAUSE OF SINAT CHINAM - HATRED FOR NO REASON. BUT I DON'T KNOW ANYONE WHO HATES FOR NOTHING! THEY HATE SOMEONE FOR A REASON! HE WAS MEAN TO ME - I HATE HIM, SHE FORGOT MY BIRTHDAY - I HATE HER. THAT'S NOT HATRED FOR NO REASON!



OFTEN OUR FEELINGS OF HATRED OR UPSET TOWARDS ANOTHER PERSON DON'T MAKE SENSE, WHEN WE ARE FULL OF ANGER AND CAUGHT UP IN THE HEAT OF THE MOMENT. THINK ABOUT YOUR 'ANGEROMETER'.



AN EXAGGERATED, SUPER ANGRY RESPONSE IS SINAT CHINAM - HATRED FOR NO REASON. WHEN WE REACT WITH A LEVEL 10 TO SOMETHING THAT WAS REALLY A 1 OR 2, WE ARE ALLOWING OUR ANGER TO BECOME SINAT CHINAM.

IF WE TAKE A MOMENT TO CALM DOWN AND THINK ABOUT THE SITUATION FROM THE OTHER PERSON'S POINT OF VIEW, THE ANGER FEELS MUCH SMALLER. IN THE STORY OF KAMTZA AND BAR KAMTZA, THE MIX UP OF INVITES MEANT THAT BAR KAMTZA (ENEMY), INSTEAD OF KAMTZA (FRIEND), ARRIVED AT THE PARTY. HOW DO YOU THINK THE PARTY HOST WOULD HAVE REACTED IF HE HAD BEEN PREPARED TO THINK THAT HIS ENEMY BAR KAMTZA DIDN'T COME UNINVITED TO CAUSE TROUBLE? INSTEAD, IT WAS AN HONEST MISTAKE OF THE SERVANT. YES, HE MIGHT STILL BE ANGRY, BUT MUCH MUCH LESS. THAT REACTION COULD HAVE CHANGED THE FACE OF JEWISH HISTORY.



WHEN WE MAKE SURE THAT OUR RESPONSES ARE APPROPRIATE, AND TAKE OTHER PEOPLE'S FEELINGS INTO ACCOUNT, WE ARE DOING OUR BIT TO REMOVE SINAT CHINAM FROM THE WORLD AND REPLACE IT WITH AHAVAT CHINAM, SHOWING LOVE FOR NO REASON INSTEAD. AND IF WE CAN GET OUR PERSONAL ANGEROMETER DOWN LOW, WE'LL END UP FEELING BETTER TOO!



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