

Things that make you go "hmmmmm....."

Posted by ZemirosShabbos - 12 Jul 2011 17:31

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open to all, a place to put interesting pictures, quotes, links or anything that makes you pause and think

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Re: Things that make you go "hmmmmm....."

Posted by gibbor120 - 01 Nov 2011 19:27

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wise words.

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Re: Things that make you go "hmmmmm....."

Posted by ur-a-jew - 01 Nov 2011 19:29

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[ZemirosShabbos wrote on 01 Nov 2011 19:21:](#)

## **Shrugging Off Compliments**

Most don't know how to accept a compliment. Instead of graciously accepting it, they bashfully shrug it off.

This is very important in marital communication as well. Spouses need to learn how to accept the compliments they receive.

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Re: Things that make you go "hmmmmm....."

Posted by JackAbbey - 02 Nov 2011 16:17

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So:

No Licorice Yes Compliment

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Re: Things that make you go "hmmmmm....."

Posted by gibbor120 - 02 Nov 2011 16:19

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If she makes some licorice, can you compliment her on it? Can she accept the compliment?

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Re: Things that make you go "hmmmmm....."

Posted by Gevura Shebyesod - 02 Nov 2011 17:10

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Yeah, but don't overdose on the compliments. They can cause an ego attack.

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Re: Things that make you go "hmmmmm....."

Posted by ZemirosShabbos - 02 Nov 2011 17:17

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hmmmm

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Re: Things that make you go "hmmmmm....."

Posted by gibbor120 - 02 Nov 2011 17:37

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Re: Things that make you go "hmmmmm....."

Posted by Gevura Shebyesod - 02 Nov 2011 17:43

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I need a full-size bumpersticker of that for my truck ;D

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Re: Things that make you go "hmmmmm....."

Posted by gibbor120 - 02 Nov 2011 17:44

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Re: Things that make you go "hmmmmm....."

Posted by Gevura Shebyesod - 02 Nov 2011 17:49

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I'll put it on my other car....

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Re: Things that make you go "hmmmmm....."

Posted by ZemirosShabbos - 03 Nov 2011 15:36

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## **Actions Speak for Themselves**

you mean MONSTER size, don't you?

A certain doctor called Rav Yitzchak Silberstein, shlit"a, with a fascinating question. He explained that he was about to operate on a new immigrant to Israel who was definitely Jewish but, strangely, did not have a bris. His parents had been very liberal and although they loved the land, they did not approve of the "blemish" of making a bris. "Halachically, can I make him a bris during the main procedure without his approval ahead of time?" asked the surgeon.

Rav Silberstein explained that this was only permitted if he was not planning to arrange a bris. "Also, you must first do the bris, since the other operation will place him in the category of a sick person who may not be circumcised until he is well."

Despite the immense risk, the doctor decided to circumcise his amiable patient.

When the patient awoke and the doctor explained what he had done, the immigrant reacted in an amazing manner. "I must say that although I have never seriously entertained having a bris, now that it has been done I feel much more love for G-d and a powerful desire to fulfill mitzvos." He added, "I also feel overpowered with gratitude towards the kind doctor who enabled me to feel all this!"

[fire-in-breslov.blogspot.com/2011/11/actions-speak-for-themselves.html](http://fire-in-breslov.blogspot.com/2011/11/actions-speak-for-themselves.html)

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Re: Things that make you go "hmmmmm....."  
Posted by gibbor120 - 03 Nov 2011 15:40

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you forgot the disclaimer: **Do not try this at home!**

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Re: Things that make you go "hmmmmm....."  
Posted by ZemirosShabbos - 03 Nov 2011 15:45

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A priest, a Pentecostal preacher and a Rabbi all served as chaplains to the students of Northern Michigan University in Marquette. They would get together two or three times a week for coffee and to talk shop. One day, someone made the comment that preaching to people isn't really all that hard.

A real challenge would be to preach to a bear.

One thing led to another and they decided to do an experiment. They would all go out into the woods, find a bear, preach to it, and attempt to convert it. Seven days later, they're all together

to discuss the experience. Father Flannery, who has his arm in a sling, is on crutches, and has various bandages, goes first. "Well," he says, "I went into the woods to find me a bear. And when I found him I began to read to him from the Catechism. Well, that bear wanted nothing to do with me and began to slap me around. So I quickly grabbed my holy water, sprinkled him and he became as gentle a lamb. The bishop is coming out next week to give him first communion and confirmation."

Reverend Billy Bob spoke next. He was in a wheelchair, with an arm and both legs in casts, and an IV drip. In his best fire and brimstone oratory he claimed, "WELL brothers, you KNOW that we don't sprinkle! I went out and I FOUND me a bear. And then I began to read to him from

God's HOLY WORD! But that bear wanted nothing to do with me. So I took HOLD of him and we began to wrestle. We wrestled down one hill, UP another and DOWN another until we came to a creek. So I quick DUNKED him and BAPTIZED his hairy soul. And just like you said, he became as gentle as a lamb. We spent the rest of the week in Fellowship, feasting on God's Holy Word, and praising \_\_\_\_."

They both looked down at the rabbi, who was lying in a hospital bed. He was in a body cast and traction with IV's and monitors running in and out of him. He was in bad shape.

The rabbi looks up and says, "You fellows don't even know what trouble is until you try to circumcise a bear."

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Re: Things that make you go "hmmmmm....."  
Posted by gibbor120 - 03 Nov 2011 15:58

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Re: Things that make you go "hmmmmm....."  
Posted by ZemirosShabbos - 03 Nov 2011 16:28

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## **Knish Wars**

*Rabbi Dovid Sears, Director of the Breslov Center for Spirituality and Inner Growth, and author of many books on Jewish thought provided the material for the posting below.*

### **Question:**

Are there fundamental differences of emunos ve-de'os (basic theological beliefs) that divide Chassidim from non-Chassidim? Or are the main differences those of emphasis and spirit?

### **Answer:**

Reb Noson once observed, "The difference between a Chassid and a Misnaged is the difference between a hot knish and a cold knish." We all have the same Yiddishkeit, the same Shulchan Aruch. So I would say that the latter part of your question is nearer the truth -- although we cannot gloss over differences of emphasis and spirit, either.

My teacher, Rav Elazar Kenig of Tzefat, has often said, "All the pnimiyus ha-Torah we study is only meant to help us to learn the same blatt Gemora with more emes and more geshmak!"

Reb Elazar's father, Rabbi Gedaliah Kenig, zal, addressed this issue in his book-length essay, "Chayei Nefesh," Chapter 4. There, he states:

"We maintain that it is impossible that there could be any contradiction between [Rabbi Chaim of Volozhin's] holy words and the premises of Chassidism. For I have received a tradition from the house of my father and master [Rabbi Elazar Mordechai Kenig, after whom the present Rav of the Tzefat Breslev community, shlita, is named], as well as from the house of my teacher [Rabbi Avraham Sternhartz, zatzal], that the issues in the dispute between the Chassidim and the scholars known as the P'rushim did not touch upon the principles and foundations of our religion. In fact, these principles and foundations of our holy faith are beyond dispute. All Jews share the same underlying faith in the absolute unity of the Creator, may He be blessed, in

Divine Providence, in His holy Torah, and in His faithful servants, who are the Prophets and Sages, the true tzaddikim of every generation, and in their holy words that are spoken in truth. This is the very foundation of the entire Torah, both Written Torah and the Oral Torah. Since the words of the Sefer Nefesh HaChaim mentioned above deal with fundamental and essential matters of our holy faith, then clearly it is impossible to conjecture that the Chassidim, may God protect and bless them, say or think otherwise, heaven forbid."

Some say that there is a dispute over the kabbalistic concept of tzimtzum, the Chassidim following the view of "tzimtzum she-lo ke-pshuto," and the Misnagdim following that of "tzimtzum ke-pshuto." There is much discussion about this in the Chabad seforim in particular. However, the idea of tzimtzum she-lo ke-pshuto did not originate with the Baal Shem Tov, but appears in earlier sources. And the concept of tzimtzum ke-pshuto, to which the Vilna Gaon and other great kabbalists in the non-Chassidic world subscribed, was rejected by Rabbi Chaim of Volozhin, the author of Nefesh HaChaim. So we can't even say that this constitutes a real dividing line between the two movements.

Yet the distinctions between the various schools of Chassidus and the various "Litvishe" approaches also need to be recognized and appreciated for what they are.

The Litvishe approach tends to be more focussed on intensive Torah study, particularly of Gemara and Poskim, keeping the Kabbalah pretty much under wraps for all but a small elite. It takes a more rationalist approach overall; does not foster the same attitude of bittul toward tzaddikim and teachers; and allows the critical intellect to remain dominant, within the confines of basic emunos ve-de'os. Additionally, in modern times, the yeshiva has become the unifying factor in Litvishe communities, as contrasted with the Chassidic "courts," which revolve around the figure of the Rebbe, and which tend to be intensely close-knit.

Rabbi Nachman praised the Chassidic Rebbes for preserving the traditional Jewish form of dress and appearance, and for keeping their followers distant from secularism (chokhmos chitzoniyos) (see Chayei Moharan 421). He also praised the early Chassidim for their fiery enthusiasm in prayer, which he wanted his talmidim to emulate (Chayei Moharan 79; Tovos Zikhronos 5).

In addition, Chassidim have traditionally placed greater emphasis on matters of kedushah (sanctity of body and mind), including regular use of mikveh before davening, etc. They also have placed greater stress on hiskashrus / attachment to tzaddikim; on ahavas Yisrael, which eliminated some of the elitist tendencies of the Litvishe world; and on deveykus / mystical attachment to Hashem as a serious goal in the spiritual life of the average person. Although

these points of emphasis have gone in and out of focus over the course of time, they are still recognizable in the Chassidic world.

These are the roots of the seemingly opposite polarities of the "cold knish" and "hot knish." However, despite the implicit value judgment in Reb Noson's comparison, he is clearly stating that the contents are the same -- although I don't know if he identified the Universal Orthodox Knish as kasha or potato.

[asimplejew.blogspot.com/2006/03/guest-posting-from-rabbi-dovid-sears.html](http://asimplejew.blogspot.com/2006/03/guest-posting-from-rabbi-dovid-sears.html)

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