



The Rabbi Isaac N. Trainin
Bikur Cholim
Coordinating Council

Bikur Cholim Joke Book

We hope this collection of humor will lighten your hearts and spirits. Like bikur cholim, laughter is a gift, and humor can be a tool to use for yourself or to enrich another person.



A good joke transcends age, race, religion, wealth, and gender, and lifts our spirits. Thanks to those who contributed these jokes.

Enjoy!

The Rabbi Isaac N. Trainin Bikur Cholim Coordinating Council, A Rita J. Kaplan Jewish Connections Program of The Jewish Board of Family and Children's Services, NYC, offers training, print and media resources, consultation and follow-up support for synagogues, schools, and community groups. For more information on how your group can use our resources, for a consultation, or to make a donation, please call us any time during the year.

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TWO FRIENDS

Two friends meet after they haven't seen each other in twenty five years.

Harry starts talking about himself and doesn't stop for a half hour.

His friend David says "Harry, we haven't spoken in 25 years, you go on and on about yourself...aren't you going to ask about me?"

Harry considers and says "Your right! How are you?"

David answers "Oy, Don't ask!"

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TWO GRANDMOTHERS

Two very Jewish grandmothers were enjoying the sunshine on a park bench in Miami. They had been meeting at that park every sunny day for over twelve years, chatting and enjoying each other's friendship.

One day the younger of the two ladies turned to the other and said, "Please don't be angry with me, dear, but I am embarrassed, after all these years.... What is your name? I'm trying to remember, but I just can't."

The older friend stared at her, look very distressed, said nothing for two full minutes, and finally with tearful eyes, "How soon do you have to know?"

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ALIYAH

A Gabbai approaches a guest in the Shul and says, "I want to give you an *Aliyah*. What is your name?"

The man says "Sara bat Moshe."

The Gabbai says "No I need your name."

The man repeats "It is Sara bat Moshe."

The Gabbai asks "How can that be your name?"

The man answers "I've been having serious financial problems so everything is in my wife's name."

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STAMPS

A woman went to the Post Office to buy stamps for her Chanukah cards.

"What denomination?" asked the clerk.

"Oh, good heavens! Have we come to this?" replied the woman

"Well, give me 50 Conservative, 2 Orthodox, and 37 Reform ones."

A GREAT STORY FOR ANY AGE...

The 92 year-old, petite, well-poised and proud mother-in-law of my best friend, who is fully dressed each morning by eight o'clock, with her hair fashionably coifed and makeup perfectly applied, even though she is legally blind, moved to a nursing home today. Her husband of 70 years recently passed away, making the move necessary.

Maurine Jones is the most lovely, gracious, dignified woman that I have ever had the pleasure of meeting. While I have never aspired to attain her depth of wisdom, I do pray that I will learn from her vast experience. After many hours of waiting patiently in the lobby of the nursing home, she smiled sweetly when told her room was ready.

As she maneuvered her walker to the elevator, I provided a visual description of her tiny room, including the eyelet sheets that had been hung on her window. "I love it," she stated with the enthusiasm of an eight-year old having just been presented with a new puppy. "Mrs. Jones, you haven't seen the room ...just wait."

"That doesn't have anything to do with it," she replied. "Happiness is something you decide on ahead of time. Whether I like my room or not doesn't depend on how the furniture is arranged; it's how I arrange my mind. I already decided to love it. It's a decision I make every morning when I wake up. I have a choice: I can spend the day in bed recounting the difficulty I have with the parts of my body that no longer work, or get out of bed and be thankful for the ones that do. Each day is a gift, and as long as my eyes open I'll focus on the new day and all the happy memories I've stored away – just for this time in my life. Old age is like a bank account you withdraw from what you've put in. So, my advice to you would be to deposit a lot of happiness in the bank account of memories."

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WHO NEEDS A HEARING AID?

A man goes to his doctor and says, "I don't think my wife's hearing is as good as it used to be. What should I do?"

The doctor replies, "Try this test to find out for sure. When your wife is in the kitchen doing dishes, stand fifteen feet behind her and ask her a question, if she doesn't respond keep moving closer asking the question until she hears you."

The man goes home and sees his wife preparing dinner. He stands fifteen feet behind her and says, "What's for dinner, honey?"

He gets no response, so he moves to ten feet behind her and asks again.

Still no response, so he moves to five feet. Again, no answer.

Finally he stands directly behind her and says, "Honey, what's for supper?"

She replies, "For the fourth time, I SAID CHICKEN!"

THREE TURTLES

Three turtles decide to have a picnic in Central Park. They load up their basket with pickles, cookies, sandwiches, those fancy Laura Ashley napkins, etc., etc. They discover that they have forgotten the mustard. So they start arguing over who will have to go back to get the mustard. The big turtle and the medium turtle eventually persuade the little turtle that he has to be the one to back and get the mustard. OK, the little turtle says, I'll go, but only on condition that you don't eat the sandwiches before I get back. Fine, fine, the big turtles promise.

An hour goes by, two hours, three hours and finally the sun sets. A day goes by, two days, three days, a week, a month, a year, two years, ten years (drag this out as long as you dare.) A million years go by. Galaxies are born, explode and die, the Pleistocene Era comes and goes. A very long time comes and goes.

Finally the big turtle says to the medium turtle, "Well, he's been gone a long time, do you think we should eat the sandwiches?" And with that, the little turtle jumps out from behind a rock, and says: "Aha! Then I'm not going!"

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JEWISH GRANDMOTHER

A Jewish grandmother is giving directions to her grown grandson
 who is coming to visit with his wife:
 "You come to the front door of the apartment complex. I am in apartment 14T.
 There is a big panel at the front door. With your elbow push button 14T.
 I will buzz you in.
 Come inside, the elevator is on the right.
 Get in, and with your elbow hit 14.
 When you get out, I am on the left.
 With your elbow, hit my doorbell"
 "Grandma, that sounds easy, but why am I hitting all these buttons with
 my elbow?"
 "What! You're coming empty handed?"

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JEWISH WITNESS

Mr. Finkelstein is called as a witness in a trial.
 "How old are you?" asks the D.A.
 "I am, kaynahoreh, ninety one."
 "Excuse me? What did you say?"
 "I said, I am, kaynahoreh, ninety-one years old."
 "Sir, the clerk can't type unusual words, please just answer the question with no embellishments," says
 the D.A. "I ask you again, How old are you?"
 "I told you. Kaynahoreh, I'm ninety-one."
 The D.A. is really getting annoyed. The judge is also losing his patience. He instructs, "The witness
 will answer the question simply and plainly or be held in contempt of court!"
 The defense lawyer rises and says, "Your Honor, I think I can resolve this. May I ask the question?"
 "If you can get this trial moving, please, be my guest."
 "Mr. Finkelstein, let me ask you, kaynahoreh, how old are you?"
 Mr. Finkelstein replies, "Ninety-one."

THE WAITER AND THE SOUP

A man in a restaurant calls the waiter over and says,
"Waiter, taste my soup!"

The waiter demurs, "Oh, no, sir. I couldn't do that."

The man insists, "No, I really want you to taste my soup."

The waiter continues to object,
"Sir, it's not appropriate for me to taste your soup."

The man persists, "I'm asking you to taste my soup!"

The waiter replies, "Sir, is something wrong with your soup?"

The man continues to insist, "Just taste my soup."

The waiter sighs and says in a resigned voice,
"Oh, all right. I'll taste your soup."

He bends down to the table, then stops and turns to the man,
"I can't...there's no spoon."

The man says, "Aha!!!"

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INSTALLING LOVE

Customer Service Rep (CS Rep): Yes, Ma'am, how can I help you today?

Customer: Well, after much consideration, I've decided to install LOVE. Can you guide me through the process?

CS Rep: Yes, I can help you. Are you ready to proceed?

Customer: Well, I'm not very technical, but I think I'm ready to install now. What do I do first?

CS Rep: The first step is to open your HEART. Have you located your HEART ma'am?

Customer: Yes I have, but there are several other programs running right now. Is it okay to install while they are running?

CS Rep: What programs are running ma'am?

Customer: Let's see, I have PAST-HURT.EXE, LOW-ESTEEM.EXE, GRUDGE.EXE, and RESENTMENT.COM running right now.

CS Rep: No problem. LOVE will gradually erase PAST-HURT.EXE from your current operating system. It may remain in your permanent memory, but it will no longer disrupt other programs. LOVE will eventually overwrite LOW-ESTEEM.EXE with a module of its own called HIGH-ESTEEM.EXE. However, you have to completely turn off GRUDGE.EXE and RESENTMENT.COM. Those programs prevent LOVE from being properly installed. Can you turn those off ma'am?

Customer: I don't know how to turn them off. Can you tell me how?

CS Rep: My pleasure. Go to your Start menu and invoke FORGIVENESS.EXE. Do this as many times as necessary until GRUDGE.EXE and RESENTMENT.COM have been completely erased.

Customer: Okay, done. LOVE has started installing itself automatically. Is that normal?

CS Rep: Yes. You should receive a message that says it will reinstall for the life of your HEART. Do you see that message?

Customer: Yes I do. Is it completely installed?

CS Rep: Yes, but remember that you have only the base program. You need to begin connecting to other HEARTS in order to get the upgrades.

Customer: Oops. I have an error message already. What should I do?

CS Rep: What does the message say?

Customer: It says "ERROR 412 - PROGRAM NOT RUNNING ON INTERNAL COMPONENTS." What does that mean?

CS Rep: Don't worry that's a common problem. It means that the LOVE program is set up to run on external HEARTS but has not yet been run on your HEART. It is one of those complicated programming things, but in non-technical terms it means you have to "LOVE" your own machine before it can "LOVE" others.

Customer: So what should I do?

CS Rep: Can you pull down the directory called "SELF-ACCEPTANCE"?

Customer: Yes, I have it.

CS Rep: Excellent. You're getting good at this.

Customer: Thank you.

CS Rep: You're welcome. Click on the following files and then copy them to the "MY HEART" directory: FORGIVE-SELF.DOC, REALIZE-WORTH.TXT, and ACKNOWLEDGE-LIMITATIONS.DOC. The system will overwrite any conflicting files and begin patching any faulty programming. Also, you need to delete VERBALLY-SELF-CRITIC.EXE from all directories, and then empty your recycle bin afterwards to make sure it is completely gone and never comes back.

Customer: Got it. Hey! My HEART is filling up with new files. SMILE.MPG is playing on my monitor right now and it shows that PEACE.EXE, and CONTENTMENT.COM are copying themselves all over my HEART. Is this normal?

CS Rep: Sometimes. For others it takes a while, but eventually everything gets downloaded at the proper time. So, LOVE is installed and running. You should be able to handle it from here. One more thing before I go . . .

Customer: Yes?

CS Rep: LOVE is freeware. Be sure to give it and its various modules to everybody you meet. They will in turn share it with other people and they will return some similarly cool modules back to you.

Customer: I will. Thanks for your help. By the way, what's your name?

CS Rep: You can call me the Divine Cardiologist, also known as The Great Physician, but most call me God(dess). Most people feel that all they need is an annual checkup to stay heart-healthy, but the manufacturer (Me) suggests a schedule of daily maintenance for maximum efficiency. Put another way, keep in touch.

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PHILOSOPHY

GREAT TRUTHS THAT LITTLE CHILDREN HAVE LEARNED:

- 1) No matter how hard you try, you can't baptize cats.
- 2) When your Mom is mad at your Dad, don't let her brush your hair.
- 3) If your sister hits you, don't hit her back. They always catch the second person.
- 4) Never ask your 3-year old brother to hold a tomato.
- 5) You can't trust dogs to watch your food.
- 6) Don't sneeze when someone is cutting your hair.
- 7) Never hold a Dust-Buster and a cat at the same time.
- 8) You can't hide a piece of broccoli in a glass of milk.
- 9) Don't wear polka-dot underwear under white shorts.
- 10) The best place to be when you're sad is Grandpa's lap.

GREAT TRUTHS THAT ADULTS HAVE LEARNED:

- 1) Raising teenagers is like nailing Jell-O to a tree.
- 2) Wrinkles don't hurt.
- 3) Families are like fudge...mostly sweet! , with a few nuts.
- 4) Today's mighty oak is just yesterday's nut that held its ground.
- 5) Laughing is good exercise. It's like jogging on the inside.
- 6) Middle age is when you choose your cereal for the fiber, not the toy.

GREAT TRUTHS ABOUT GROWING OLD

- 1) Growing up is mandatory; growing old is optional.
- 2) Forget the health food. I need all the preservatives I can get.
- 3) When you fall down, you wonder what else you can do while you're down there.
- 4) You're getting old when you get the same sensation from a rocking chair that you once got from a roller coaster.
- 5) It's frustrating when you know all the answers but nobody bothers to ask you the questions.
- 6) Time may be a great healer, but it's a lousy beautician.
- 7) Wisdom comes with age, but sometimes age comes alone.

THE FOUR STAGES OF LIFE:

- 1) You believe in Santa Claus.
- 2) You don't believe in Santa Claus.
- 3) You are Santa Claus.
- 4) You look like Santa Claus.

SUCCESS:

At age 4 success is not peeing in your pants.
 At age 12 success is having friends.
 At age 16 success is having a drivers license.
 At age 35 success is having money.
 At age 50 success is having money.
 At age 70 success is having a drivers license.
 At age 75 success is having friends.
 At age 80 success is not peeing in your pants

DEEP OBSERVATIONS ON LIFE

“My parents didn’t want to move to Florida, but they turned sixty and that’s the law”

--Jerry Seinfeld

“A study in the Washington Post says that women have better verbal skills than men. I just want to say to the authors of that study: Duh.”

--Conan O'Brien

“Suppose you were an idiot... And suppose you were a member of Congress... But I repeat myself.”

--Mark Twain

“You can say any foolish thing to a dog and the dog will give a look that says, ‘My God, you’re Right! I never would’ve thought of that!’”.

--Dave Barry

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ZEN JUDAISM

Here are a few excerpts from David M. Bader's "Zen Judaism: For You, a Little Enlightenment."

Let go of pride, ego, and opinions. Admit your errors and forgive those of others. Relinquishment will lead to calm and healing in your relationships. If that doesn't work, try small-claims court.

Though only your skin, sinews, and bones remain, though your blood and flesh dry up and wither away, yet shall you meditate and not stir until you have attained full Enlightenment. But, first, a little nosh.

Accept misfortune as a blessing. Do not wish for perfect health or a life without problems. What would you talk about?

Be here now. Be someplace else later. Is that so complicated?

There is no escaping karma. In a previous life, you never called, you never wrote, you never visited. And whose fault was that?

The Torah says, "Love thy neighbor as thyself." The Buddha says there is no "self." So, maybe you are off the hook.

If there is no self, whose arthritis is this?

Wherever you go, there you are. Your luggage is another story.

Do not let children play contact sports like football. These only lead to injuries and instill a violent, war-like nature. Encourage your child to play peaceful games, like "sports doctor."

Enter into your inner self and behold the eye of the soul. Gaze upon your original face before you were even born. Shocked? Remember, this was before the nose job.

The journey of a thousand miles begins with a single "oy".

WHAT MY MOTHER TAUGHT ME

1. My parents taught me TO APPRECIATE A JOB WELL DONE.
"If you're going to kill each other, do it outside. I just finished cleaning."
2. My parents taught me RELIGION.
"You better pray that will come out of the carpet."
3. My parents taught me about TIME TRAVEL.
"If you don't straighten up, I'm going to knock you into the middle of next week!"
4. My parents taught me LOGIC.
" Because I said so, that's why."
5. My parents taught me MORE LOGIC.
"If you fall out of that swing and break your neck, you're not going to the store with me."
6. My parents taught me FORESIGHT.
"Make sure you wear clean underwear, in case you're in an accident."
7. My parents taught me IRONY.
"Keep crying, and I'll give you something to cry about."
8. My parents taught me about the science of OSMOSIS.
"Shut your mouth and eat your supper."
9. My mother taught me about CONTORTIONIST.
"Will you look at that dirt on the back of your neck!"
10. My mother taught me about STAMINA.
"You'll sit there until all that spinach is gone."
11. My parents taught me about WEATHER.
"This room of yours looks as if a tornado went through it."
- 12 My parents taught me about HYPOCRISY.
"If I told you once, I've told you a million times. Don't exaggerate!"
13. My parents taught me the CIRCLE OF LIFE.
"I brought you into this world, and I can take you out."
14. My parents taught me about BEHAVIOR MODIFICATION.
"Stop acting like your father!"
15. My parents taught me about ENVY.
"There are millions of less fortunate children in this world who don't have wonderful parents like you do."
16. My parents taught me about ANTICIPATION.
"Just wait until we get home."
17. My parents taught me about RECEIVING.
"You are going to get it when you get home!"
18. My parents taught me MEDICAL SCIENCE.
"If you don't stop crossing your eyes, they are going to freeze that way."
19. My parents taught me ESP.
"Put your sweater on; don't you think I know when you are cold?"

20. My parents taught me HUMOR.

"When that lawn mower cuts off your toes, don't come running to me."

21. My parents taught me HOW TO BECOME AN ADULT.

"If you don't eat your vegetables, you'll never grow up."

22. My parents taught me GENETICS.

"You're just like your father."

23. My parents taught me about my ROOTS.

"Shut that door behind you. Do you think you were born in a barn?"

24. My parents taught me WISDOM.

"When you get to be my age, you'll understand."

25. My parents taught me about JUSTICE.

"One day you'll have kids, and I hope they turn out just like you

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PHONE CALL

Several men are in the locker room of a golf club. A cell phone on a bench rings and a man engages the hands free speaker-function and begins to talk. Everyone else in the room stops to listen.

MAN: "Hello"

WOMAN: "Honey, it's me. Are you at the club?"

MAN: "Yes"

WOMAN: "I am at the mall now and found this beautiful leather coat. It's only \$1,000. Is it OK if I buy it?"

MAN: "Sure, ..go ahead if you like it that much."

WOMAN: "I also stopped by the Mercedes dealership and saw the new 2005 models. I saw one I really liked."

MAN: "How much?"

WOMAN: "\$90,000"

MAN: "OK, but for that price I want it with all the options."

WOMAN: "Great! Oh, and one more thing The house I wanted last year is back on the market. They're asking \$950,000".

MAN: "Well, then go ahead and give them an offer of \$900,000. They will probably take it. If not, we can go the extra 50 thousand. If it's really a pretty good price."

WOMAN: "OK. I'll see you later! I love you so much!!"

MAN: "Bye! I love you, too."

The man hangs up. The other men in the locker room are staring at him in astonishment, mouths agape.....He smiles and ask: "Anyone know who this phone belongs to?"

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BACK HOME

Two immigrants meet on the street.

"How's by you?" asks one.

"Could be worse. And you?"

"Surviving. But I have been sick a lot this year and it's costing me a fortune. In the past five months, I've spent over \$10,000 on doctors and medicine."

"Ach, back home on that kind of money, you could be sick for two years."

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YIDDISH PROVERBS

A man is not honest simply because he never had a chance to steal.

Don't judge a man by the words of his mother, listen to the comments of his neighbors.

If the rich could hire other people to die for them, the Poor could make a wonderful living.

The wise man, even when he holds his tongue, says more than the fool when he speaks.

Ask about your neighbors, then buy the house.

What you don't see with your eyes, don't invent with your mouth.

When a thief kisses you, count your teeth.

One of life's greatest mysteries is how the boy who wasn't good enough to marry your daughter can be the father of the smartest grandchild in the world.

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SURVIVING

Jacob is one of the lucky ones because he's the only one of his family to have survived two years in a concentration camp. He's now nearing 90 and his only remaining joy is the national lottery, which he's been playing for years without success. But then he wins the big one, a prize of \$10 million, and a journalist from the Times calls on him for a story.

Jacob tells him, "As I'm the only one in my family to have survived concentration camp, this has helped me decide how to make use of my large win. So I've decided to donate \$5 million to the Save the Children Fund, \$3 million to the Simon Wiesenthal Center, \$750,000 to the Jewish Museum, \$750,000 Hadassah Hospital and \$500,000 to be shared amongst my friends. I'm also thinking of donating \$1 from my pocket to the Nazi party."

The journalist is surprised. "But Jacob, how can you think of donating even \$1 to the Nazi party after everything that's happened to you and your family?"

Jacob rolls up his sleeve, points to his arm, smiles and replies, "It's only fair. They gave me the winning numbers."

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A GOOD DEAL

My cousin Murray runs a pawnshop, I asked him to appraise my grandfather's violin. "Old fiddles aren't worth much, I'm afraid," he explained.

"What makes it a fiddle and not a violin?" I asked.

"If you're buying it from me, it's a violin. If I'm buying it from you, it's a fiddle."

YIDDISHA LOVE

A young Jewish mother walks her son to the school bus on his first day of kindergarten.

"Please behave, my bubaleh," she says.

"Take good care of yourself and think about your mother who is waiting for you, tataleh!"

"And come right back home on the bus, my shepseleh."

"Remember, your Mommy loves you a lot, my tiere!"

At the end of the school day, the bus returns. She runs to her son and hugs him.

"So what did the love of my life learn on his first day of school?" she asks.

"I learned my name is David," is the boy's response.

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FETCH

Morty visits the veterinarian in Boca Raton and says, "My dog has a problem."

The doctor replies, "So tell me about the dog's problem."

"First you should know, he's a Jewish dog. His name is Irving and he can talk," says Morty.

"He can talk?" the doubtful doctor asks.

"Watch this!" Morty points to the dog and commands, "Irving, fetch!"

Irving, the dog, begins to walk towards the door, then turns around and demands, "So why are you talking to me like that? You order me around like I'm nothing. And you only call me when you want something. And then you make me sleep on the floor, with my arthritis. You give me this fahkakhka food with all the salt and fat, and you tell me it's a special diet. It tastes like dreck! YOU should eat it yourself! And do you ever take me for a decent walk? NO, it's out of the house, a short pish, and right back home. Maybe if I could stretch out a little, the sciatica wouldn't kill me so much! I should roll over and play dead for real, for all you care!"

The doctor is amazed. "This is remarkable! What could be the problem?"

Morty says, "Obviously, he has a hearing problem! I said 'Fetch!' not 'Kvetch.' "

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Wife: "What are you doing?"

Husband : Nothing.

Wife : "Nothing...? You've been reading our marriage certificate for an hour."

Husband : "I was looking for the expiration date."

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Wife: "You always carry my photo in your wallet. Why?"

Hubby: "When there is a problem, no matter how impossible, I look at your picture and the problem disappears."

Wife: "You see how miraculous and powerful I am for you?"

Hubby: "Yes! I see your picture and ask myself what other problem can there be greater than this one?"

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Son: "Mom, when I was on the bus with Dad this morning, he told me to give up my seat to a lady."

Mom: "Well, you have done the right thing."

Son: "But mom, I was sitting on daddy's lap."

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A newly married man asked his wife, "Would you have married me if my father hadn't left me a fortune?"

"Honey," the woman replied sweetly, "I'd have married you, NO MATTER WHO LEFT YOU A FORTUNE!"

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Father to son after exam: "Let me see your report card."

Son: "My friend just borrowed it. He wants to scare his parents."

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Girl to her boyfriend: One kiss and I'll be yours forever.

The guy replies: "Thanks for the early warning."

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THE LIE CLOCK

After a long life, and a tumultuous marriage, Stan Herman dies and arrives at the Gates of Heaven, where he sees a huge wall of clocks behind him.

He asks an angel, "What are all those clocks?"

The angel answers, "Those are Lie-Clocks. Everyone on Earth has a Lie-Clock. Every time you lie the hands on your clock will move."

"Oh," says Herman, "whose clock is that?"
"That's Moses' clock. The hands have never moved, indicating that he never told a lie."

"Incredible," says Herman.
"And whose clock is that one?"

The angel responds, "That's Abraham Lincoln's clock. The hands have moved twice, telling us that Abe told only two lies in his entire life."

"So where's my clock?" asks Herman.
"Your clock is in God's office. He's using it as a ceiling fan."



*Have you heard a good joke recently?
Did you think it was so funny that you want to share it?
Let us know, and if we agree we'll add it to the next
bikur cholim joke book for our next conference.
Thanks!*

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