

A white L-shaped graphic element consisting of a vertical line on the left and a horizontal line on the top, meeting at a corner.

Town Hall XIII

March 19, 2021

Vort of the Week

כִּי אָדָם אֵין צַדִּיק בְּאֶרֶץ אֲשֶׁר יַעֲשֶׂה טוֹב וְלֹא יַחֲטָא.

For there is not one righteous man on earth who always does what is best, and never sins.

Kohelet 7:20

☆☆😊 **Perfect Segue** 😊☆☆





Cancel Culture

The Situation

- Meyers Leonard is an NBA player for the Miami Heat
- The other week, he was livestreaming on Twitch
- He said some expletives including the “K-slur”
- He was immediately suspended by the Heat for using hate speech “we will not tolerate hateful speech in our franchise”

Meyers' Apology

I am deeply sorry for using an anti-Semitic slur during a livestream yesterday. While I didn't know what the word meant at the time, my ignorance about its history and how offensive it is to the Jewish community is absolutely not an excuse and I was just wrong. I am now more aware of its meaning and I am committed to properly seeking out people who can help educate me about this type of hate and how we can fight it. I acknowledge and own my mistake and there's no running from something like this that is so hurtful to someone else. This is not a proper representation of who I am and I want to apologize to the Arisons, my teammates, coaches, front office, and everyone associated with the Miami Heat organization, to my family, to our loyal fans and to others in the Jewish community who I have hurt. I promise to do better and know that my future actions will be more powerful than my use of this word.

Reactions

- How do you feel about what Meyers Leonard said?
- What do you think the response to him should have been? (suspended, expelled, etc.)

Language

- Leonard mentioned that he didn't know what the word meant and did not mean to be hateful
- Does intent matter?

Cancel Culture

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- Is cancel culture good?
 - Is there a time when people should be cancelled?
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Continued...

- What does it mean to be cancelled?
- What counts as being cancelled?

The Effects

- Should we feel any sympathy for people who are cancelled?
 - Any boundaries for our sympathy?
- Has cancelling been used for more good or bad in total?
- How does cancel culture affect discourse?