L wrote via the Internet:

What does Orthodox Judaism say about how one is supposed to treat their future in-laws when the in-laws are not religious and have stated that they dislike you?

And if he really does want to marry you but is so weak and spineless that he lets himself be intimidated by his father, are you sure he’s the type of guy that you want for a husband?

Depending on how ‘official’ the engagement was, he may have certain financial obligations to you. Did you have an engagement party? Send out invitations? Who paid? In some cases, the party who cancels the engagement is required to pay expenses to the wronged party, plus a fine for embarrassment caused.

The following incident shows the seriousness of keeping one’s word in such matters. Once a young man and woman swore to marry each other. “Who will bear witness to our oath?” they asked. Just then, they noticed a weasel passing a nearby hole in the ground. “This weasel and this hole will be our witnesses,” they said.

Years passed, and the woman was faithful to the oath. The man, however, married someone else and had a son. Along came a weasel and bit the son, and he died. They had another son who fell into a hole and died. “Why are these strange things happening to us?” said his wife. Suddenly, he remembered his oath and he told the whole story to his wife. “If so, divorce me and go marry her.” And so he did.

Sources:
- Rema Yoreh Deah 240:25
- Bereishit 2:24
- Tosefot in Ta’anit 8a

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**Yiddle Riddle**

**Halachically, what do the following days have in common?**

1) 21 Cheshvan
2) 3 January
3) 15 Iyar

**Answer next week...**

Thanks to Saul Behr <SBEHR@MCKQ.CO.ZA>