

הַלְכָה of the Week**~ שְׁמִירַת הַלְשׁוֹן ~****לְשׁוֹן הַרְעָ** *Without Mentioning Names*

It is not necessary to explicitly (openly) mention someone's name for a statement to be considered **לְשׁוֹן הַרְעָ**. If the listener will be able to work out the identity of the person to whom you are referring then you are guilty of **לְשׁוֹן הַרְעָ**.

You should be careful not to imitate the person's voice, gestures or mannerisms as such behaviour may also indicate his identity.

In general, it is best to completely refrain (keep away) from making any disparaging (negative, upsetting) remarks. Even though you might think that the subject of your remark (the person about whom you were speaking) is unknown to your listeners, or you think that you have not given enough of a clue to the person's identity, you might be wrong.

פָּרָקִי אֲבוֹת of the Week

פרק ו
וְגָדוֹלָה תֹּורָה יוֹתֵר מִן הַכּוֹנֶה וּמִן הַמֶּלֶכֶת, שַׁהְמַלְכּוֹת נִקְנִית בִּשְׁלֹשִׁים
מִעֵלּוֹת, וְהַכּוֹנֶה בִּעֲשָׂרִים וּאֶרְבַּע, וְהַתֹּורָה נִקְנִית בִּאֶרְבַּעַם וּשְׁמֹנֶה
דְּבָרִים. וְאֵלּוּ הֵן, בַּתְּלִמוד, בְּשִׁמְיעַת הָאָזֶן, בְּעֲרִיבַת שְׁפָתִים, . . .

To learn Torah is greater than to be a kohein or a king.
A king has thirty advantages, and a kohein has twenty-four, but in order to gain Torah learning a person must improve himself in forty-eight ways.

They are:

study,

listening carefully,

speaking clearly . . .

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