

הלכה of the Week

~ שמירת הלשון ~

Relating לשון הרע Under Pressure

There is no difference between freely volunteering הרע and being pressured into relating it. If someone would entice you to eat food that is not kosher, would the food then be permissible? The same principle would apply to לשון הרע.

David was burning with curiosity to find out the identity of a person who had done something wrong: "Look, you can tell me, we've been good friends for years. I promise that I won't repeat it to a soul. Just give me a hint. I won't budge until you tell me."

Regardless of David's persistence, his friend must be strong and withhold the information.

פְּרָקִי אֲבוֹת of the Week

פְּרָקִי ה' י' אַרְבַּע מִדּוֹת בְּהוֹלָכִי לְבֵית הַמִּדְרָשׁ. הוֹלֵךְ וְאֵינוֹ עוֹשֶׂה, שֶׁכֵּר הֵלִיכָה בִּידּוֹ. עוֹשֶׂה וְאֵינוֹ הוֹלֵךְ, שֶׁכֵּר מַעֲשֶׂה בִּידּוֹ. הוֹלֵךְ וְעוֹשֶׂה, חֲסִיד. לֹא הוֹלֵךְ וְלֹא עוֹשֶׂה, רָשָׁע:

There are four types among those who go to the beis hamedrash (house of study):

- one who goes but does not study, has the reward for going;
- one who studies (at home) but does not go (to the beis hamedrash), he receives a reward for studying;
- a person who goes to the beis hamedrash and studies there, that person is a 'chossid';
- a person who does not go to the beis hamedrash and does not study at home, that person is wicked.

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