

**מִלְכָה** of the Week

~ שְׁמִירַת הַלְּשׁוֹן ~

**לְשׁוֹן הַרְעָ**

The transgression (sin) of **לְשׁוֹן הַרְעָ** can be committed through speech or writing. Derogatory (negative) information in personal letters, emails, books, newspapers, leaflets and wall posters is all considered **לְשׁוֹן הַרְעָ**.

Dear Sara,

I hope you are well.

Since you left, our friend, Leah, has been later than ever for school in the mornings. Poor Chana and Rachel are failing in many subjects. Reuven still copies from Adam's work, although Adam deserves to be irritated because he never shares his equipment with Devora. It also won't surprise you that Mr. Cohen, next door, still takes ages to throw our balls back over the fence. Mrs. Cohen wears that same ugly hat every Shabbat. Finally, Miriam probably won't be ringing you for a while because she was banned from the phone for a month after calling her friends without permission.

Well, that's my news. Look forward to hearing from you!

Rivkah

**לְשׁוֹן הַרְעָ!**

**פָּרָקִי אֲבוֹת** of the Week

בְּכָל מִחְלֹקַת שֶׁהָיָה לִשְׁמָ שָׁמִים, סֹפֶה לְהַתְקִים. וְשֹׁאֵנָה לִשְׁמָ שָׁמִים,  
אֵין סֹפֶה לְהַתְקִים. אִיזוֹ הָיָה מִחְלֹקַת שֶׁהָיָה לִשְׁמָ שָׁמִים, זֶה מִחְלֹקַת הַלְּלָ  
וּשְׁמָאִי. וְשֹׁאֵנָה לִשְׁמָ שָׁמִים, זֶה מִחְלֹקַת קָרָחׁ וּכְלָעָדָתוֹ:

Any dispute that is for the sake of Heaven will have a constructive outcome; but one that is not for the sake of Heaven will not have a constructive outcome.

What sort of dispute was for the sake of Heaven? The dispute between Hillel and Shammai.

Which was not for the sake of Heaven? The dispute of Korach and his entire company.

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