

הַלָּכָה of the Week

~ שְׁמִירַת הַלָּשׁוֹן ~

לשון הרע Writing

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

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

Before sending a letter, check it for לָשׁוֹן הָרַע!

פְּרָקִי אֲבוֹת of the Week

פְּרָקִי ה

נ כָּל מַחְלֻקַּת שְׁהִיא לְשֵׁם שָׁמַיִם, סוּפָה לְהִתְקַיֵּם. וְשִׂאִינָה לְשֵׁם שָׁמַיִם, אֵין סוּפָה לְהִתְקַיֵּם. אֵיזוֹ הִיא מַחְלֻקַּת שְׁהִיא לְשֵׁם שָׁמַיִם, זֶה מַחְלֻקַּת הַלֵּל וְשִׂמְאִי. וְשִׂאִינָה לְשֵׁם שָׁמַיִם, זֶה מַחְלֻקַּת קָרַח וְכָל עֲדָתוֹ:

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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