

מִלְכָה of the Week

~ שְׁמִירַת הַלְּשׁוֹן ~

True and false derogatory statements.

You are forbidden to relate anything derogatory (negative) about others. If a derogatory statement is true, it is **לְשׁוֹן הַרְעָה**. If it is false, even partially, it is called **מוֹצִיאָה שְׁם רֹעַ** (literally, ‘giving someone a bad name,’ or *defamation of character*) and the offense is much more severe.

It is so important to remember and can not be repeated often enough that **true** derogatory statements are considered **לְשׁוֹן הַרְעָה**. The most common defense to a rebuke for speaking **לְשׁוֹן הַרְעָה** is,

“But it is true!”

!לְשׁוֹן הַרְעָה! *That is exactly what makes the statement true!*

פָּרָקִי אֲבוֹת of the Week

פרק ה
יד ארבע מדות בידעות. נוח לבעום ונוח לרצות, יצא שכרו בהפסדו, קשחה לבעום וקשחה לרצות, יצא הפסדו בשכרו קשחה לבעום ונוח לרצות חסיד. נוח לבעום וקשחה לרצות רשע:

There are four types of temperament:

- One who is angered easily and pacified easily, his gain is offset by his loss;
- One who is hard to anger and hard to pacify, his loss is offset by his gain;
- One who is hard to anger and easy to pacify is pious;
- One who is easily angered and hard to pacify is wicked.