

הלכה of the Week

~ שמירת הלשון ~

True and false derogatory statements.

You are forbidden to relate anything derogatory (negative) about others. If a derogatory statement is true, it is לשון הרע. If it is false, even partially, it is called מוציא שם רע (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 לשון הרע. The most common defense to a rebuke for speaking לשון הרע is,

“But it is true!”

That is exactly what makes the statement לשון הרע!

פְּרָקִי אֲבוֹת of the Week

פְּרָק ה

יֵד אַרְבַּע מִדּוֹת בִּידְעוֹת. נוֹחַ לְבָעוֹם וְנוֹחַ לְרִצּוֹת, יֵצֵא שְׂכָרוֹ בְּהִפְסָדוֹ,
קָשָׁה לְבָעוֹם וְקָשָׁה לְרִצּוֹת, יֵצֵא הִפְסָדוֹ בְּשְׂכָרוֹ קָשָׁה לְבָעוֹם וְנוֹחַ
לְרִצּוֹת חֲסִיד. נוֹחַ לְבָעוֹם וְקָשָׁה לְרִצּוֹת רָשָׁע:

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.