

מִלְכָה of the Week

~ שְׁמִירַת הַלְּשׁוֹן ~

לְשׁוֹן הַרְעָ Said in Jest (for a joke)

You are forbidden to speak **לְשׁוֹן הַרְעָ** even in jest (for a joke).

The **תֹּزֶרֶת** prohibits derogatory statements, even if they are said without hatred and without the intention of shaming the person being spoken about.

*When Aryeh was rebuked for speaking **לְשׁוֹן הַרְעָ** he replied, “but Naphtali is a good friend of mine; I only meant it as a joke.”*

The fact that someone is “only joking” is not a valid excuse for speaking **לְשׁוֹן הַרְעָ**.

פָּרָקִי אֲבוֹת of the Week

פָּרָק 1
הַאֲלֵיכֶם גְּדוֹלָה לְעַצְמָה, וְאֲלֵיכֶם תְּחִמּוֹד בָּבּוֹד, יוֹתָר מְלֻמּוֹד עֲשָׂה, וְאֲלֵיכֶם תְּהִאָה לְשִׁלְחָנָם שֶׁל שָׂרִים, שִׁשְׁלָחָנָם גְּדוֹל מִשְׁלָחָנָם וּבְתְּרָכָה גְּדוֹל
מִבְתְּרָם, וְגַאֲמָן הוּא בַּעַל מְלָאכָתָךְ שִׁישָׁלָם לְךָ שָׁבֵר פְּעַלְתָּךְ:

You should not seek a high position for yourself, and you should not desire honour; let your performance (of mitzvot) exceed (*be more than*) your learning. Do not yearn to sit at the table of kings, because your table is greater than theirs, and your crown is greater than theirs, and your Master can be trusted to pay you for your work.

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