



## הלכה of the Week

~ שמירת הלשון ~

### לשון הרע Habitual Speakers of

Someone who only speaks לשון הרע occasionally is guilty of a serious sin. However, those who habitually gossip about the faults of others are guilty of a much more serious sin, since they deliberately and repeatedly disregard one of Hashem's מצוות.

Habitual offenders can often be found sitting around making disparaging remarks about others:

**"Reuven is a good-for-nothing; just the other day he..."**

**"Don't think that Leah is so special; she comes from a family that..."**

**"Do you know what I just heard about Shimon?"**

Our Rabbis have labelled these people בעלי לשון הרע (Ba'alei Lashon Hara - habitual speakers of Lashon Hara). The Talmud (Erchin, 15b) states that someone who constantly speaks לשון הרע commits sins greater than idolatry and murder. The עברה of constantly speaking evil of others is so enormous that a בעלי לשון הרע loses his share in עולם הבא (the World to Come) unless he does תשובה. (Yerushalmi Paiah 1:1)

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*Beware of לשון הרע when speaking on the telephone. If the person with whom you are speaking insists on speaking לשון הרע you should rebuke him (tell him off).*

*If this is not possible, find an excuse to hang up: "Excuse me, something has just come up," (it has - the לשון הרע) and end the conversation.*

## פרקי אבות of the Week

פרק ה

שז ארבע מדות בנותני צדקה. הרוצה שיתן ולא יתנו אחרים, עינו רעה בשל אחרים. יתנו אחרים והוא לא יתן, עינו רעה בשל. יתן ויתנו אחרים, חסיד. לא יתן ולא יתנו אחרים, רשע:

There are four types of donors to צדקה:

- a) one who wishes to give, himself, but wants others not to give: he begrudges others;
- b) one who wants others to give but does not want to give himself: he begrudges himself;
- c) one who wants to give and wants others to give is pious;
- d) one who does not want to give and does not want others to give is wicked.

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