

With thanks to Rabbi Zelig Pliskin for kindly giving me permission to use extracts from his book, "Guard Your Tongue" (based on "Chofetz Chaim").

הלכה of the Week

~ שְׁמִירַת הַלְּשׁוֹן ~

Rabbi Pliskin said he will be pleased to know these halachot are being publicised more widely, especially in view of the fact that his own father was a talmid of the Chofetz Chaim, who went to great lengths to make these laws better known.

Private Information

If someone tells you private information about his business or any private matter you are forbidden to pass on that information to others. Your doing so could cause the person who confided in you (told you private information) financial loss (loss of money), embarrassment or other damage.

You are not allowed to repeat what you were told even if the speaker did not request that the matter remain secret.

However, if that person related information about himself in the presence of three or more people and did not request secrecy then those people may repeat the information to others. Since the speaker related it to a group of three or more people we can assume that he does not mind the information being known.

The best advice is that **it is a good habit never to repeat what people tell you, unless they explicitly (openly, clearly) give you permission to do so.** In this way you will avoid relating information that may cause harm.

פרק א' of the Week

פרק א' רבי מאיר אומר כל העוסק בתורה לשמה זוכה לדברים הרבה. ולא עוד אלא שבעל העולם כל כך הוא לו.

Rabbi Meir said:

Whoever engages in Torah study for its own sake merits many things; furthermore, the creation of the whole world was worthwhile for his sake alone [just so that he should study Torah].

* * *