

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

~ שמירת הלשון ~

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.

TS

### לשון הרע Said in Jest (for a joke)

You are forbidden to speak לשון הרע even in jest (for a joke).

The תורה 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 לשון הרע 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 לשון הרע.

## פירקי אבות of the Week

פירקו

ה אל תבקש גדלה לעצמך, ואל תחמוד כבוד, יותר מלמודך געשה, ואל תתאוה לשלחנם של שרים, ששלחנה גדול משלחנם וכתרך גדול מכתרם, ונאמן הוא בעל מלאכתך שישלם לך שכר פועלתך:

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.

\* \* \*