



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

## הַלְכָה of the Week

~ שְׁמִירַת הַלְשׁוֹן ~

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.

### 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  
ה אל תבקש גָּדְלָה לְעַצְמָה, וְאֵל תִּחְמֹד בָּבּוֹד, יוֹתֵר מַלְמֹדֵךְ עַשְׂתָּה, וְאֵל תִּתְאֹה לְשִׁלְחָנָם שֶׁל שָׂרִים, שִׁשְׁלָחָנָם גָּדוֹל מִשְׁלָחָנָם וּבְתִּרְךְ גָּדוֹל מִבְּתָרָם, וְגַאֲמָן הוּא בַּעַל מַלְאָכָתָךְ שִׁיְשַׁלֵּם לְךָ שָׁבֵר פָּעָלָתֶךָ:

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.

\* \* \*