



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 הַלְּשׁוֹן ~

לְשׁוֹן הָרָע to a Group of People

You are forbidden to speak לְשׁוֹן הָרָע either to a single individual or to a group. The larger the group that hears your sin, the worse your sin, since the victim of your words will be seen in a negative way by all of those people. Furthermore, a larger number of people have sinned through hearing your לְשׁוֹן הָרָע.

Mr. Greenfield delivered a speech to a large crowd and in his speech he mentioned a few of Mr. Levine's faults. The size of Mr. Greenfield's sin will be equal to the number of people present.

פָּרָקִי אֲבוֹת of the Week

פרק ה

כה היה אומר, בן חמיש שנים למקרא, בן עשר למשנה, בן שלוש עשרה למקצת, בן חמיש עשרה לתלמוד, בן שמונה עשרה לחדפה, בן עשרים לרדוף, בן שלשים לכלה, בן ארבעים לבינה, בן חמישים לעצה, בן ששים לזקנה, בן שבעים לשיכחה, בן שמונים לגבורה, בן תשעים לשזה, בן מאה באלף מות ועבר ובטל מין העולם:

He (Yehudah Ben Teima) used to teach:

A **five-year-old** should already have started to study the *Tanach*.

A **ten-year-old** should already have started to study *Mishnah*.

A **thirteen-year-old** is an adult and is required to keep all the *mitzvot*.

A **fifteen-year-old** should already have started to study *Gemara*.

An **eighteen-year-old** has reached the age to **marry**.

A **twenty-year-old** begins to earn a **livelihood**.

A **thirty-year-old** has reached his **full strength**.

A **forty-year-old** has reached the age of **understanding**.

A **fifty-year-old** has reached the age of **giving advice**.

A **sixty-year-old** has reached the age of **wisdom**.

A **seventy-year-old** has reached a **ripe old age**.

An **eighty-year-old** has reached the age of **spiritual strength**...

