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Shabbat P. Tazria-Metzora,

Sat. 28 - 29 Apr. 2017 - 3rd of Iyyar, 5777 -

שבת פ' תזריע-מצורע - פרקי אבות - פרק ב'

ג אייר תשע"ז Issue Number 791

Baal Koreh	Rabbi Asher Sebbag (Page-608).
Mufteer & Haftarah	Mr David Gigi Pres. by Ghassan (Page -1172).
Shir Hashirim, Mincha, Kabalat Shabbat & Arbit.	19:00
Shabbat Candles.	20:04
Shabbat Shahrit - Followed by Kiddush. (Shema 8:40).	08:30
Daf Hayomi with Rabbi Asher Sebbag Shlit"a.	18:30
Mincha Shabbat Followed by Seuda Shlishit. (Sunset - 20:21).	19:30
Arbit Motzei Shabbat followed by Havdalah.	21:19
Shahrit Weekday - Sunday - Shahrit (07:30). (Mon & Thu 06:40)	06:45
Daf Hayomi with Rabbi Asher Sebbag Shlit"a.	17:45
Mincha & Arbit	18:45
Shir Hashirim, Mincha, Kabalat Shabbat & Arbit.	19:00
Shabbat Candles. P. Achari-Kedoshim.	20:15

Metzora (Leviticus 14-15)

Tazria-Metzora 5777

GOOD MORNING! The Talmud (*Arakin* 15b) tells us that *Loshon Hora* (literally: "evil speech") kills three people -- the one who speaks it, the one who hears it and the one who is spoken about.

What is Loshon Hora? There are three essential types of defamatory speech -- 1) The facts are true, but are related for no positive purpose. An example of a positive purpose: "Be careful when you consider a business deal with George. He's been in prison three times for embezzling." 2) The facts are false and the story is told to besmirch someone's reputation. 3) Talebearing -- "Did you hear what Martha said about you?"

What do you do if someone starts speaking *Loshon Hora*? How do you stop them without getting into a fight or embarrassing them?

For years I have had a "vest pocket" question to pull out if someone started speaking gossip, slander or defamatory words. I'd just ask, "Who do you think will win the World Series?"

It works perfectly! People look at me aghast and say, "What are you talking about? It's football season!" Or, "Who cares? I hate baseball." And then the conversation continues in a whole other direction!

Lately, I've added a new question, "What pitcher threw two consecutive no-hitters?" The reason why this is such a great question is that it absolutely

doesn't matter. It's a piece of trivia that is perhaps interesting to someone who likes baseball, yet it is a prodigious feat to anyone who knows anything about baseball -- and it absolutely turns the conversation in another direction!

What one speaks about begins with his thoughts and perspective. The following is from "Why Not Jump to a Good Conclusion?" published by the Chofetz Chaim Heritage Foundation (845-352-3505 or check out their website at PowerOfSpeech.org), which effectively educates Jews about the Laws of Speech:

The Torah teaches that, whenever we experience or hear about the negative behaviour of another person, we must "judge favorably." In simple terms, that means giving the benefit of the doubt. But how can one follow that advice when it seems that the facts clearly point to someone's guilt?

Sometimes we jump to the wrong conclusion because the facts are different from what we perceive them to be. Even if our facts are accurate, we often misinterpret the intent behind them. When we drop the assumption that there was a negative intention behind someone's actions towards us, we automatically deflate much of the anger and hurt that we feel.

The Six Questions for Judging Favorably

1. Are you sure it happened at all? Sometimes our perceptions of what we see and hear are mistaken.
2. Are you sure the details are correct? One small detail can completely alter

the scenario. Something may have been exaggerated or omitted that would make a big difference.

3. Do you know if the other person intended harm? Often the consequences are unforeseen.
4. Do you know the assumptions the other person was operating under? Maybe the other person was operating under a misconception that would explain their behavior.
5. Could the other person's act have been the result of an innocent, human error? Everyone has limitations. Perhaps this person lacked experience, was forgetful, distracted or simply didn't think carefully enough before acting.
6. Do you know what events preceded the negative action? The other person may be enduring a great deal of pain, frustration or stress. This might be a response to a specific situation, like an illness or financial loss. Or it could be a deeper, more pervasive problem that affects the person's entire life.

Although the Torah requires us to judge others with favor and compassion, we are not required to accept abusive behavior from others. Physical, verbal or emotional abuse must be addressed and corrected.

There is a fabulous book, [Guard Your Tongue](#), by Rabbi Zelig Pliskin which is highly readable, easily understandable and has lots of stories to illustrate the laws of proper speech. I highly suggest buying a copy. If you want spirituality, one of the best paths is to be careful about what you speak. It is available at your local Jewish

bookstore, or by calling toll-free to 877-758-3242.

And for those who want to know - it was Johnny Vander Meer. He pitched two consecutive no-hitters in 1938 for the Cincinnati Reds. The first against the Boston Bees and the second against the Brooklyn Dodgers. If you really want to "wow" the person you are diverting from speaking *Loshon Hora* - or you need a second question to strengthen the diversion -- you can ask "And who was the last person he struck out?" Leo Durocher.



TORAH PORTION OF THE WEEK

**Tazria, Leviticus 12:1 - 14:9 &
Metzora, Leviticus 14: 1 - 15:33**

The Torah continues with the laws of physical and spiritual purity. The focus of this portion is upon *tzora'as*, a supernatural physical affliction sent to warn someone to refrain from speaking badly about others. The disease progressively afflicted home, clothes and then one's skin -- unless the individual corrected his ways and followed the purification process stated in the Torah.

As mentioned above, there are three types of speech transgressions: 1) *Loshon Hora* (literally "evil tongue") -- making a derogatory or damaging statement about someone even though you are speaking the truth. 2) *Motzie Shem Ra* -- slander -- where what is spoken is negative and false. 3) *Rechilus* (literally "tale bearing") -- telling someone the negative things another person said about him or did against him. Check

out PowerOfSpeech.org for daily lessons in *Shmirat HaLoshon*, proper speech.

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Dvar Torah

**based on Love Your Neighbor by
Rabbi Zelig Pliskin**

The Torah writes regarding one who is afflicted for speaking gossip or tale bearing:

"All the days the plague is in him ... he shall dwell alone; outside the camp shall his dwelling be" (Lev. 13:46).

What lesson can we learn from this?

The Sages said that since the *metzora* caused the separation of friends and the separation of husbands and wives, he should also be separated from others.

The isolation of the *metzora* gave him time for introspection. He could now recall the marriages and friendships his malicious gossip has dissolved. Removed from society, he would feel the mental anguish he caused others when his slander caused them to be ostracized.

From here we see that a person should learn from his own experiences the pain that others feel when they suffer. If anyone ever spoke *Loshon Hora* against you, you certainly did not like it. Remember those feelings and refrain from speaking against others.



Shabbat Shalom,
Kalman
Rabbi Kalman
Packouz

Yom HaShoah was on 24th Apr. / 28th Nissan: is a day of remembrance for the six million Jewish people who died in the Holocaust, and a range of events take place. In Israel, it is a national Memorial Day

Yom Hazikaron 1st May / 5th Iyyar: is the national Remembrance Day observed in Israel for those who fell since 1860, when Jews were first allowed to live in Palestine outside of Jerusalem's Old City walls. ... National memorial services are held in the presence of Israel's top leadership and military personnel.

May 14, 1948: Israel Declares Independence. Rudi Weissenstein /Israel Ministry of Foreign Affairs David Ben-Gurion, the first Prime Minister of Israel, pronounces the Declaration of the State of Israel at the Tel Aviv Museum of Art on **May 14, 1948.** 14 May 2012

Yom Ha'atzmaut: is celebrated on the 5th day of Iyar (ה' באייר) in the Hebrew calendar, the anniversary of the day on which Israeli independence was proclaimed, when David Ben-Gurion publicly read the Israeli Declaration of Independence.

Besiman Tov: to Charles Silas and family on the birth of his eleventh Great-Grandchild in Jerusalem a baby boy, Yehuda Ariel for Rabbi Daniel and Dalia Westbrook and Grandparents Frora and David Wieder.

Besiman Tov: to Rebecca & Daniel Zubaida on the birth of their baby daughter, Hanna Blossom. and Grandparents, Brighty and Sabah Zubaida & Judy and Peter Krechman. We wish all the families many happy and healthy years.

THE KEHILLA WISHES חיים ארוכים "LONG LIFE"
TO THE FOLLOWING WHO HAVE YAHRZEIT

01 Iyar Miss Florence David	12 Iyar Mr Meir Fattal
01 Iyar Mrs Bekhor	15 Iyar Mrs Esther Silas
04 Iyar Mrs Annie Benjamin	18 Iyar Mr Saul Ceasar Hannuna
06 Iyar Mr Abraham S. Cohen	19 Iyar Mr Abraham S. Cohen
08 Iyar Mr Joseph Laniado	26 Iyar Mrs Tiba David
12 Iyar Mr Harry Fattal	29 Iyar Mr Charles Benaiah
12 Iyar Mr Jack Fattal	

“ Quote of the Week ”

The difference between
stumbling blocks and stepping stone
-- is how you use them