

## הַלְכָה of the Week

~ שְׁמִירַת הַלְשׁוֹן ~

### True and false derogatory statements.

You are forbidden to relate anything derogatory about others. If a derogatory statement is true, it is לְשׁוֹן הָרַע. If it is false, even partially, it is called מוֹצִיא שֵׁם רַע (literally, ‘giving someone a bad name,’ or *defamation of character*) and the offense is much more severe.

It is so important to remember and can not be repeated often enough that **true** derogatory statements are considered לְשׁוֹן הָרַע. The most common defense to a rebuke for speaking לְשׁוֹן הָרַע is,

“But it is true!”

*That is exactly what makes the statement לְשׁוֹן הָרַע!*

## פְּרָקִי אָבוֹת of the Week

פְּרָקִי ה

יָד אַרְבַּע מְדוֹת בִּידְעוֹת. נוֹחַ לְכַעֵס וְנוֹחַ לְרַצּוֹת, יֵצֵא שְׂכָרוֹ בְּהֶפְסְדוֹ, קָשָׁה לְכַעֵס וְקָשָׁה לְרַצּוֹת, יֵצֵא הֶפְסְדוֹ בְּשְׂכָרוֹ קָשָׁה לְכַעֵס וְנוֹחַ לְרַצּוֹת חֲסִיד. נוֹחַ לְכַעֵס וְקָשָׁה לְרַצּוֹת רָשָׁע:

There are four types of temperament:

- One who is angered easily and pacified easily, his gain is offset by his loss;
- One who is hard to anger and hard to pacify, his loss is offset by his gain;
- One who is hard to anger and easy to pacify is pious;
- One who is easily angered and hard to pacify is wicked.