

הלכה of the Week

~ שמירת הלשון ~

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.

פְּרָקִי אָבוֹת of the Week

פְּרָקִי

ה אֵל תִּבְקַשׁ גְּדֻלָּה לְעַצְמְךָ, וְאַל תַּחְמוֹד כְּבוֹד, יוֹתֵר מִלְמוּדְךָ עֲשֵׂה, וְאַל תִּתְאַוֶּה לְשִׁלְחָנָם שֶׁל שָׂרִים, שִׁשְׁלֹחֲנְךָ גְּדוֹל מִשְׁלֹחֲנָם וְכִתְרְךָ גְּדוֹל מִכִּתְרָם, וְנֶאֱמַן הוּא בְּעַל מְלֶאכֶתְךָ שִׁישְׁלֵם לְךָ שְׂכָר פְּעֻלָּתְךָ:

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.

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