

From: The Rabbis at Chicago Torah Network

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CTN YJP presents:

A Taste of Talmud

Join Rabbi Moshe Katz for a hands-on, dynamic, and interactive study of a section of the Talmud. You will have a chance to discover for yourself how a few lines of the Talmud can shed light on such diverse topics as spiritual and ethical growth, relationships, animal rights, and more.

We'll do what Jews have done for 1500 years: we'll go to the source and see for ourselves how the Talmud has always been the Jewish source of law, ethics, and self-improvement. This will be a unique learning experience and will not be one of those *"sit back and listen to what some scholar wants to say to you"* lectures.

Don't miss this special opportunity!



Monday, April 26, 2010

Refreshments 7:00 p.m. / Taste of Talmud 7:30 p.m.

**The Pearson Condominium Hospitality Room (37th floor)
250 E. Pearson, Chicago, IL 60611**

Take lobby elevator to the 36th floor, then take the other elevator to the 37th floor

For more information, email info@torahnetwork.org or call 773.761.0400 x201



Home for the Wondering Jew™

Hang in there - Shabbos is coming!

Torah Portion: Tazria-Metzora (Leviticus 12:1 - 15:33)

*This week's CTN Shabbat Fax is sponsored by Jonah & Jo Bruck,
in honor of their wonderful grandchildren,
Malka Yakira and Yaffa Gitel.*

1. **"When a person has the disease of tzora 'as, he shall be brought to the priest ... (13:9)**

Jewish tradition teaches that this was not an ordinary illness.

It was seen as a condition with a spiritual cause.

And was a message to a person who had sinned against his fellow man.

Especially through the sin of slander. And gossip.

In Hebrew it's called *lashon hara*. Literally, *an evil tongue*.

And Jewish tradition is very clear:

Except for very limited cases, we are not allowed to say anything negative about others.

Even if it is true.

... It's something to think about.

Because the power of speech is one of the most wonderful things we have.

It gives us the gifts of communication. And relationships.

The right words can bring a smile to someone's face. Bring people together.

But when I speak *lashon hara*, I use speech in a very different way.

To destroy a friendship. Create friction. And to cause someone pain.

... *What a tragic abuse of a precious gift!*

▪ **Rabbi Elchonon Wasserman was a leading Torah scholar in pre-war Europe.**

In the 1930's, Rabbi Wasserman visited America. He was busy around the clock raising funds for impoverished Jews in Europe. And meeting with large numbers of people who sought his guidance. In addition, he delivered many brilliant Torah lectures while he was here.

And he didn't just teach from books. He taught by example.

... *A Yeshiva student was given the privilege of assisting Rabbi Wasserman during his visit. So he met the Rabbi at his Manhattan hotel room.*

As they waited for the elevator, the Rabbi – who spoke no English – turned to the student and asked him in Yiddish:

"How does one say a 'Good Morning' greeting in English?"

And the student told him.

Immediately, Rabbi Wasserman began pacing back and forth, practicing: 'Good morning. Good morning.'

... The elevator arrived. They got in.

And the Eastern European Rabbi – who was under so much pressure and had so much on his mind – turned to the elevator attendant with a smile.

... And wished him a hearty 'Good Morning'.

QUOTE OF THE WEEK

"Even one who has learned much Torah and performed many good deeds – and therefore merits admittance into the World to Come – will not be privileged to clearly behold the Divine Presence (or as we would put it, 'won't get a very good seat'!) if he is a speaker of 'lashon hara' (gossip and slander)."

The Talmud

THOUGHT OF THE WEEK

A young man went to his Rabbi the day before his wedding.

"I could really use some Rabbinical advice".

The Rabbi says to him, "The Talmud teaches that a groom has the status of a king. He's considered royalty.

But do you know how long the groom has that status?"

The groom-to-be says, "Actually, Rabbi, I don't know".

The Rabbi's answer? "I'll tell you.

It's very simple.

... You know how long you'll be a king?

As long as you treat your wife like a queen"!



Shabbat Shalom and have a great week!

Rabbi Moshe Katz

Rabbi Doni Deutsch

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