**Hilchos 101: Lashon Hora Dos and Don’ts**

1. Introduction
   1. If you really want to improve your knowledge, and hopefully practice of LH rules
      1. Chofetz Chaim
      2. Guard Your Tongue (Pliskin)
      3. Words that Hurt, Words that Heal (Telushkin)
      4. False Facts and True Rumors: Lashon Hara in Contemporary Culture (Feldman)
2. Lashon Hora Whys & a why-not
   1. People Like to Gossip
   2. People Want to Make Themselves Look Good
   3. Some people get a strange pleasure out of making others look bad
   4. D’oraisa v Minhag (Gershom Scholem line?)
   5. Feathers…
3. Lashon Hora Allowances
   1. L’to’eles
      1. Therapy (see IV.b.)
      2. Indirectly (Achan example)
   2. To protect someone
      1. Business partner
         1. Honesty, success, etc
         2. Baal Machloket
      2. Shidduch
         1. Question of timing…
            1. Some information needs to be made known
            2. Might not be as big of a deal if revealed after the people have already gotten to know each other
         2. Knowing what to ask (as well as when…)
            1. What is an absolute deal breaker
            2. What becomes increasingly less important if all else is fine
      3. Loss of money
         1. Investment
         2. Price gouging
      4. Other forms of harm
   3. Known information
      1. What about - not to associate with a sinner?
      2. Distinguishing between My own innocence v. Naming who is guilty
4. Lashon Hora Dos
   1. When l’toeles
      1. Stick to facts
      2. Avoid opinion
      3. Avoid conjecture
      4. Couch with disclaimers
      5. Can’t be a hater
      6. Must know what you are talking about
   2. When for health reasons
      1. Specific audience
         1. Therapist
         2. Spouse
         3. Specific confidant
      2. Goal oriented, rather than person-destroying oriented
      3. To protect another person (such as a person who is threatening suicide or to harm others)
   3. When for conflict resolution
      1. Information shared with an educator/administrator
         1. Rav Moshe Feinstein was against instructing children to inform on others
      2. Information shared with a rabbi
      3. Better to try to resolve the issue directly?
   4. Guidelines when engaging in a necessary conversation
5. Lashon Hora Don’ts
   1. Lying, slander, gossiping to gossip, etc
   2. Open conversation that will spiral to negativity
      1. “I love Shprintze. But there’s one thing I don’t like about her…”
   3. Be aware + Know your audience
      1. Don’t say “I had the most lovely meal at so-and-so…” to someone who has never been invited or who doesn’t like so-and-so (Avak Lashon hara = leads to disparagement)
      2. Can even apply to speaking glowingly of (some) students!
      3. “Laying it on thick” may also be avak lashon hora (depending on audience)
      4. Purim Shpiels and “it’s just a joke…”
   4. Accepting Lashon Hora
      1. Not accepting Lashon Hora should mean to judge favorably
      2. Do not assume the person sharing the information is lying
         1. Verification of facts?
         2. Context
6. Journalism and Internet
   1. Truth?
   2. Benefit to society?
   3. Everyone needs to know!!
      1. Politicians
      2. Other leaders
   4. Dangers of anonymity in the Internet
   5. Dangers of forwarding compromising information with a click
7. Conclusions