



Table Talk Parshat Tazria

ויקרא י"ג:ב'

אָדָם כִּי־יִהְיֶה בְּעוֹר־בְּשָׁרוֹ שָׂאֵת אֹר־סַפְחָת אֹד בְּהָרֶת וְהָיָה בְּעוֹר־בְּשָׁרוֹ לְגִגֵּעַ צָרָעַת וְהוּבָא אֶל־אֹהֲרֹן הַכֹּהֵן אֹד אֶל־אַחַד מִבְּנֵי הַכֹּהֲנִים:

Leviticus 13:2

When a person has on the skin of his body a swelling, a rash, or a discoloration, and it develops into a scaly affection on the skin of his body, it shall be reported to Aaron the priest or to one of his sons, the priests.

רמב"ם משנה נגעים י"ב:ה'ג'

ואמר אחר כן אם על של רשע כך על השרש אשר אומר אותו שראיית הצרעת הנזכרת בתורה אמרו שהוא עונש בעבור לשון הרע כי יפרד מן האנשים וירחקו אותו מהיזק לשונו

Rambam on Mishnah Negaim 12:5:3

Our sages said that tzara'at comes as a punishment for the evil tongue, for its owner is isolated and can no longer harm people with his loose talk.

"Evil speech destroys relationships. Good speech mends them... in any relationship that matters to you, deliver praise daily. Seeing and praising the good in people makes them better people, makes you a better person, and strengthens the bond between you.

This really is a life-changing idea."

-The Lord Rabbi Jonathan Sacks

Let's Talk!

Why do you think the punishment for someone who speaks lashon hara is separation?

How can you use your words to bring people together?

What things can we say to people that make them feel good?

How can positive words make other people better?

Why is it important to watch what we say to people and about them?

What is the best way to make peace with our words?



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