

Table Talk Parshat Ki Tavo

"The one thing that will destroy any team, any corporation is when people start talking about each other behind their backs, we want to encourage each other."

-Jon Pritkin

דברים כ"ז:י"ח כ"ד

אָרֶור מִשְׁגַּה עֹור בְּגַדְךָ וְאָמֵר כָּל־הָעָם אָמֵן: ...
אָרֶור מִכָּה רְעֵהוּ בְּפָנָתֶךָ וְאָמֵר כָּל־הָעָם אָמֵן:

Deuteronomy 27: 18, 24

Cursed be he who misdirects a blind person on his way.—And all the people shall say, Amen. ...Cursed be he who strikes down his fellow countryman in secret.—And all the people shall say, Amen.

רש"י על דברים כ"ז:י"ח א'

משגה עור. הפטמא בזבר ומישיאו עזה רעה:

Rashi on Deuteronomy 27:18:1

[CURSED BE] משבגה עור HE THAT CAUSES THE BLIND TO GO ASTRAY — This means: one who is blind (inexperienced) in a matter and one gives him bad advice.

רש"י על דברים כ"ז:כ"ד א'

מכה רעהו בסתר. על לִשׁוֹן קָרָע הוּא אוֹמֵר;

Rashi on Deuteronomy 27:24:1

[CURSED BE] מכה רעהו בסתר HE THAT SMITETH HIS FELLOW SECRETLY — It is of slander that it here speaks (slander may be termed “smiting in secret”) (Pirkei DeRabbi Eliezer 53).

"Over time gossip weakens the will. Like all palliatives, it provides relief from problems without actually solving them. Reliance on gossip can sap the strength it takes to participate in complex social life. Risk-free yakking about problems temporarily distracts us from our sense of responsibility to solve them. It also anesthetizes us from the painful uncertainty that inevitably accompanies mature interpersonal problem solving."

-Harvard Business Review

Let's Talk!

Why would someone give another person bad advice?

How is hurting another person in "secret" destructive?

How are giving bad advice and speaking Lashon Hara secret ways of hurting someone?

How does speaking Lashon Hara harm a team?

How does Lashon Hara prevent us from solving problems?

Kids, ask your parents!

Were you ever on a team that did not work well together? What was that like?

Have you ever found out that someone spoke Lashon Hara about you or intentionally gave you bad advice? What did it feel like when you found out?



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