



THE TRIBE SCRIBE

SHELACH LECHA : SPREADING THE WORD!



THE EPISODE WITH THE SPIES IN THIS WEEK'S PARASHA REMINDS US OF THE IMPORTANCE OF NOT SPEAKING **LASHON HARA** - DAMAGING SPEECH. WE'VE ALL HAD TIMES WHEN WE WISHED WE COULD 'UNSAI' THAT COMMENT, 'UNSEND' THAT EMAIL OR TEXT AND TAKE BACK THE HURTFUL WORDS WE HAVE LET LOOSE.



BY TEACHING US TO BE CAREFUL WITH WHAT WE SAY, THE TORAH IS GIVING US THE TOOLS TO A BETTER FUTURE. IN THIS STORY, SOLLY TRIES TO PUT RIGHT A LIFETIME OF SPEAKING **LASHON HARA**.

Long ago, in a small village, lived Solly. Solly loved to talk! Whenever he heard some juicy gossip he just had to share it with everyone. He would talk to the butcher about the baker, he would talk to the baker about the shoe mender and so it went on...

One day, Solly realised that **Lashon Hara** was wrong - he shouldn't have spread all those nasty stories about other people. He decided to go to and ask his Rabbi for help.

RABBI, I'VE MADE A TERRIBLE MISTAKE. I DIDN'T REALISE I WAS HURTING PEOPLE WITH MY STORIES. I SHOULDN'T HAVE SPOKEN **LASHON HARA**. HOW CAN I PUT IT RIGHT?

GO HOME AND BRING ME YOUR LARGEST FEATHER PILLOW.



RABBI, HERE'S MY FEATHER PILLOW? DOES THAT MAKE IT ALL BETTER?

NOT YET! NOW GO AND PUT A FEATHER OUTSIDE THE HOUSE OF EVERYONE ABOUT WHOM YOU TOLD A STORY.



OK I'VE BEEN ROUND THE WHOLE VILLAGE WITH MY FEATHERS. IS THAT ALL?

NO SOLLY! NOW, YOU MUST GO AND BRING BACK ALL THE FEATHERS!

BUT THAT'S IMPOSSIBLE! THEY'VE FLOWN ALL OVER THE PLACE! SOME ARE IN THE NEXT VILLAGE, SOME MIGHT EVEN BE IN ANTARCTICA!

IT'S THE SAME WITH YOUR STORIES. ONCE THEY'VE LEFT YOUR LIPS THEY CAN NEVER BE RECOVERED. WE NEVER KNOW HOW FAR THEY'LL SPREAD AND WHAT DAMAGE WILL BE DONE.



EVEN IF I SPENT MY WHOLE LIFE LOOKING FOR THEM, I COULD NEVER GET THEM ALL BACK...

FROM NOW ON I'LL BE VERY CAREFUL WITH WHAT I SAY.

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