

SICHA STORY

PROJECT LIKKUTEI SICHOS | 5783 - YEAR OF HAKHEL



Likkutei Sichos, Volume 22

Tazria, Sicha 2

- Rabbi Yossi Nemes, Metairie, Louisiana

Do not Lashon Horah in the mirror!

A Yid entered Yechidus of the Frierdiker Rebbe asking for a Tikkun and described his own spiritual situation in a very dark negative manner. The Rebbe said "Certainly you know the severity of speaking Lashon Horah. It is forbidden to speak Lashon Horah about anyone, including about yourself!"

See also Sefer Hasichos 5687, where the Frierdiker Rebbe says to someone (some say it was to our Rebbe): Just as one should not speak Lashon Horah about someone else, one should also not speak Lashon Horah about themselves.

Why do we have a mouth altogether?

Reb Bentzion Shemtov used to say: The proper and most influential way of communicating is through the eyes, so why were we created with a mouth? To keep it closed during idle talk.

Planned Speech?

Since my childhood I have heard the following story: The Chofetz Chaim asked the Rebbe Rashab why Chassidim are so careful not to touch their beard but not as careful about Lashon hora. The Rebbe responded that cutting a beard is a premeditated act, as opposed to Lashon hora which unfortunately occurs unplanned, when people are socializing.

(Note: If this story is accurate, it would be about the second category of Lashon Horah discussed in the Sicha – not motivated by ill intent, but rather a result of idle or exaggerated speech. The Sicha, of course, describes the importance and method of correcting this, obviously the intent of the Rebbe Rashab as well).
