



Parshas Naso

Shmuz by Rabbi Shimon Max

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The Chofetz Chaim lists violations of the Torah that one may transgress for speaking lashon hora. One of them is “Do not hate your brother in your heart” (Leviticus 19). The Chofetz Chaim explains that if you speak peacefully in front of the person, you will embarrass him in public, all the more so if you tell the listener not to tell the subject then you certainly will violate this! Simply the explanation is that a person shouldn't be two-faced. We see however from the Chofetz Chaim that is not the Avaira. Let's explain-

The Gemara says it is talking about hatred in the heart, and even if you physically hurt someone, you have not violated this prohibition. The Chofetz Chaim explains that there the reason for the לאו is because if you hate someone in your heart and the person you hate is unaware then you may hurt him perhaps even subconsciously and being that he is totally unaware that you dislike him he won't be able to protect himself. The Torah therefore preemptively told us that the feeling of hate itself is forbidden. The Chofetz Chaim concludes therefore that speaking Lashon Hara behinds one's back is certainly a violation if done out of hate and in this case the Chofetz Chaim explains it's even worse on two accounts; A) The hate in the case of lashon hara is not just hate in the heart as it is hate so much so that it is expressed by speaking lashon hara. B) Once Lashon Hara has been spoken it is much more possible for damage to actually transpire. According to the Chofetz Chaim we see how important it is to not harbor any dislike towards our fellow Yidden because chas v'shalom it may cause us to hurt someone. Since we certainly don't want to cause pain to anyone (even those we may dislike) this לאו can serve as a תחבולה that we can use to work on ourselves to eradicate any ill feelings in our heart that we may have towards others. May we once again merit to be a nation of אחד ובלב אחד!! Gut Shabbos!