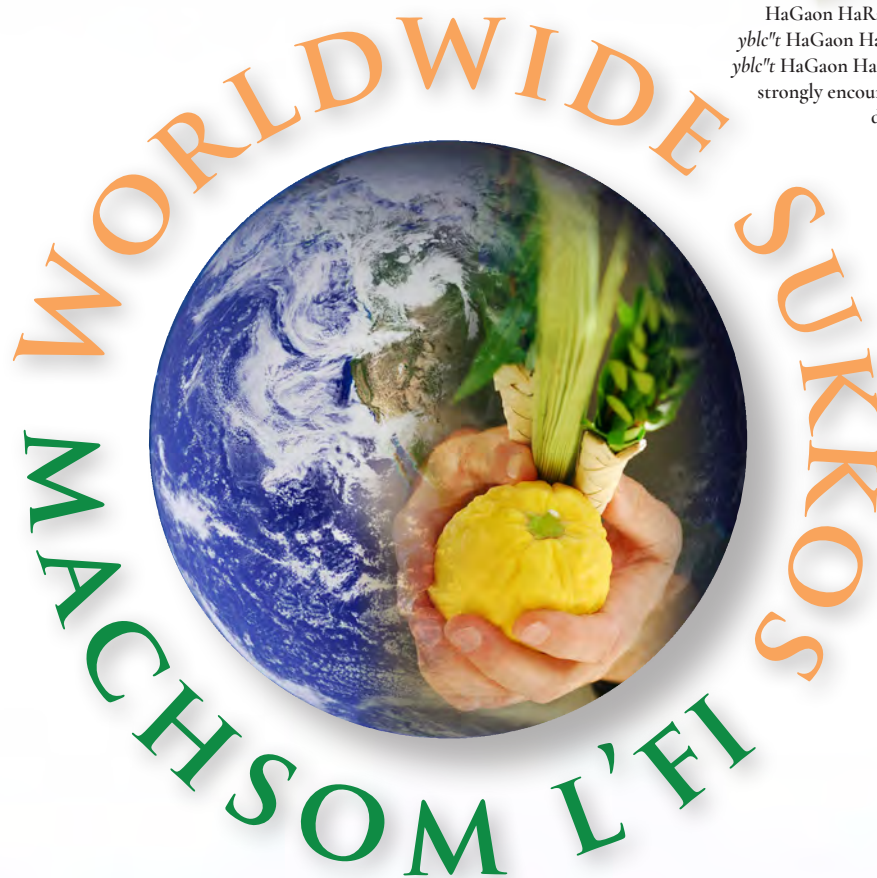




HaGaon HaRav AHARON LEIB SHTEINMAN zt"l
yble"t HaGaon HaRav SHMUEL KAMENETSKY shlit"a
yble"t HaGaon HaRav MATISYAHU SOLOMON shlit"a
strongly encouraged focusing on Shmiras Haloshon
during Shabbos and Yom Tov Seudos
by participating in a Machsom L'fi.



Make your Sukkah inviting.

Hashem's formula for compassionate speech will make your sukkah inviting:
Not only to family and friends. Not only to the Ushpizin. But to The Shechinah Itself.



CHOFETZ CHAIM  HERITAGE FOUNDATION

לעלוי נשמת

ר' קלמן בן חיים הכהן ז"ל
שיינדל בת ר' אברהם משה ע"ה
צביה דבורה מלכה רות בת משה ע"ה

ר' יצחק בן ר' אריה לייב ז"ל
רחל בת דוד בנימין ע"ה
ר' עזרא בן אסתר ז"ל
התינוק יעקב ע"ה בן משה מרדכי יבלח"ט

ר' ישראל מנחם בן ר' בנימין ז"ל
רחל לאה בת ר' חיים צבי ע"ה
ר' משה יצחק בן ר' אברהם ז"ל
שרה צירל בת משה הכהן ע"ה

הרב הגאון ר' חיים ישראל בעלסקי זצוק"ל
אביגיל מימא רחל ע"ה בת ר' חיים אהרון יבלח"ט
ר' אברהם נחמן בן ר' זאב ז"ל

Perhaps the **highest-stakes** issue regarding Shmiras Haloshon is in the area of **shidduch** information.

Two people's lives hang in the balance. The right word, the right amount of enthusiasm can build worlds, but the wrong word, even the wrong nuance, can undermine what might have been a beautiful match.

Share one of the following question and answers at each of your Yom Tov seudos and come to appreciate how careful and nuanced one must be when offering or asking for shidduch information. Bear in mind that these *shailos* and *teshuvos* are for the sole purpose of opening your eyes to the many complex issues that may arise during the course of a shidduch. A specific and personal question should always be asked to a Rav or a Posek.

And remember, when discussing these halachos don't give examples, which themselves may be *loshon hora*!

15TH OF TISHREI

First Night Seudah

S H A B B O S

Question:

May I casually discuss a girl I am investigating, or do I need to disclose that I am calling for shidduch purposes?

Answer:

The Chofetz Chaim clearly states that before inquiring about a possible shidduch, one must disclose that he is asking for shidduch purposes. [Otherwise, you are transgressing the sin of "*Lifnei iver*", causing another Jew to sin.] You can say, "I am calling for shidduch information and I will keep everything you say confidential." The Chofetz Chaim acknowledges that some people feel that they will get better information if they do not disclose why they are calling, but the Chofetz Chaim says that if you ask in accordance with halacha will not result in less accurate information.

16TH OF TISHREI

Second Night Seudah

M O T Z E I S H A B B O S

Question:

I keep getting shidduch calls about a girl from camp who I never got along with. Is it okay for me to give information about someone I dislike?

Answer:

No. Say that you didn't have much to do with her and don't know her well enough to give information. One of the conditions of *to'eles* is that your intention in sharing the derogatory information is to protect a fellow Jew from harm, and is not fueled by your dislike for the subject or your desire to harm him or her. Therefore, if you have a specific dislike for that girl, you may not give information about her. To avoid giving information in a forbidden way it would be permitted for you to say that you didn't really have much to do with her.

15TH OF TISHREI

First Day Seudah

S H A B B O S

Question:

My friend is dating a boy whose sister was with me in camp. The sister had confided in me about some serious family struggles. Should I give my friend this information?

Answer:

Disclosing a secret that someone told you is generally forbidden (the *issur* of *gilui sod*). Therefore, one must not reveal a secret without asking a *posek*. This is even more true in a case where the secret involves the family and may not even directly affect the boy in question or the possible marriage.



16TH OF TISHREI

Second Day Seudah

SUNDAY

Question:

My roommate in seminary was extremely disorganized. The woman on the phone asks if she is neat and organized. What should I say?

Answer:

During the call, make sure to emphasize the other strong points that the girl has. Because the caller has asked you directly about neatness, you may answer that you do not think that this was one of them. If the woman had not asked you directly, then you would not be permitted to mention it.

22ND OF TISHREI

Shemini Atzeres Day Seudah

SHABBOS

Question:

My daughter was *redt* to a boy from Chicago. My friend in Chicago will have an easier time than I would in getting the truth. May I ask her to make inquiries on my behalf even though she may hear *loshon hara*?

Answer:

If your friend can ascertain the truth more easily than you can, it would be permitted to ask her to make the inquiries on your behalf. If there is no particular advantage in her asking in your place, this would be *assur*, as it would be causing the messenger to hear *loshon hora* that is not pertinent to her, with no *to'eles* (purpose).

21ST OF TISHREI

Hoshana Rabah Day Seudah

FRIDAY

Question:

My friend is a great girl with average smarts. She never did great in school, but she does great in life. She has a fantastic job. A woman is asking me if she can be described as "very intelligent" or "brilliant," because her son is looking for a very smart girl.

Answer:

Say "she is a smart girl". They can then deduce from this answer that while she may not be brilliant she is in fact a smart and capable girl. They will decide if they feel this shidduch is appropriate for their son.

23RD OF TISHREI

Simchas Torah Night Seudah

SUNDAY

Question:

May I ask information from my nephew about a few boys in his *chaburah* so that he doesn't know which specific boy I am interested in for my daughter?

Answer:

No. The Chofetz Chaim specifically states that you must disclose that you are calling for shidduch information about a particular person. By asking about a group of people, you would be exposing yourself to too much unnecessary information.



22ND OF TISHREI

Shemini Atzeres Night Seudah

SHABBOS

Question:

My friend's family wastes money on unnecessary extravagances. Then they skimp on important things. Should I tell this to the caller?

Answer:

No, you should not tell this to the caller. Although you think this is a very important piece of information, it may not be particularly important to the caller, and therefore may not be passed on since you were not specifically asked. It is also important to note that your friend may have different financial habits than her family does, so this issue would not impact her marriage. If you are asked outright about spending habits, you don't need to lie; just state the facts.

23RD OF TISHREI

Simchas Torah Day Seudah

SHABBOS

Question:

I just heard negative information on a shidduch call. I know the Chofetz Chaim says you are not allowed to believe *loshon hora* you heard, what should the proper mindset be in regard to the person I was researching?

Answer:

You may drop a shidduch based on negative information that you heard.

However:

1. Do not accept the information that you heard as fact.
2. Remember to judge the subject favorably; be *dan l'kaf zechus*.
3. Don't pass the information further.

