

FOOD FOR
THOUGHT
TO SPARK
CONVERSATION

SHABBOS MENU

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SPEAK WITH CAUTION

Sometimes one relative sincerely despairs of another's conduct. Can he speak up about it without stumbling into loshon hora?

T H E

DILEMMA

Nachum and Menachem are "twin cousins," born the same day to two brothers. Now they have gone to Eretz Yisrael together to learn in the same yeshivah. Menachem is the more serious of the two, and he fears that Nachum is starting to look for a little freedom and adventure 6,000 miles from home. They have different circles of friends, and Nachum's group likes to get out and see different parts of the country whenever possible. In truth, Nachum isn't doing anything wrong.

Menachem's father calls one Erev Shabbos to speak to his son.

"So how's Nachi doing?" he asks.

"Honestly, I think it was a bad idea for him to come to Eretz Yisrael," Menachem replies. "He's got a bad group of friends. They're always running around."

Did Menachem speak loshon hora about his "twin" cousin?

T H E

HALACHAH

Since he doesn't want to disparage Nachum but simply wants to help get him on the right track, the comment – if true – would not be loshon hora. However, Menachem did not verify his information or speak to Nachum before giving the negative report – which was not in fact true – and therefore his words are pure loshon hora.

*Sefer Chofetz Chaim,
Hilchos Loshon Hora 8:1*



Reviewed by Rabbi Moshe Mordechai Lowy. For discussion only; actual halachic decisions should be made by a rav or halachic expert on a case-by-case basis.

PARTICIPANTS SPEAK

We love "Impressions"! Each edition is well written, pertinent (some even to our secular teachers), and with a great lesson.



Thank you! We look forward to another great year of inspiration.

All the best,

*Susan Rich
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FOR QUESTIONS AND COMMENTS, EMAIL

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"We should learn from the ways of Moshe

Rabbeinu

*who went to the tents of
Dassan and Aviram in an*

attempt
to make peace."

*– Sefer Shmiras Haloshon,
Shaar HaZechirah ch.17*

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DALLAS

