

לשון הרע - Inappropriate speech

Quiz on Part A - Introduction

JBHA Honor Code: Please sign your name if you are in agreement with this statement:
On my honor, I have upheld all JBHA policies on academic honesty. _____

1 (30 points - 15 points each option). Choose two out the following three options:

Option a) Leviticus 19: 16

Look up the verse and explain it in your own words:

What is the word that we discussed in class as a word worth remembering that was key to understanding the verse? _____

Now explain why Rashi saw it as a play on words:

In light of human nature, do you see this as a law that is easy to follow or difficult to follow?

Option b) Numbers 12: 1-9

Explain what this story is about in your own words:

What makes this a story about Lashon ha-Ra/לשון הרע.

What was Miriam's punishment? and, for extra credit, what is the play on words we discussed in class?

Option c) Deuteronomy 1 : 22-45

Explain what this story is about (where is the setting and what is happening here?) :

What makes this a story about Lashon ha-Ra/ לשון הרע.

The story relates a punishment (or a significant consequence) for Lashon ha-Ra/ לשון הרע ; what is the punishment?

2 (10 points). Case study :

In class, Ellie is really well behaved, but out of school, she likes to gossip with her friends. She always listens to gossip so that she can be with her friends, and when her friends are digging for gossip, she doesn't ever volunteer anything she has heard, so that way her friends know they can trust her.

a. Would Rashi say that Ellie is guilty of לשון הרע, or is she innocent?

b. Which of our biblical characters does Ellie most resemble, Moses, Aaron or Miriam and why?

c. Do you think that Ellie should keep hanging out with this group of gossipy friends? Why or why not?

Inappropriate speech - לשון הרע
Retake of the Quiz on Part A - Introduction

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1 (10 points). Leviticus 19:16

Look up the verse and explain it in your own words:

What is the word that we discussed in class as a word worth remembering that was key to understanding the verse? _____

Now explain why Rashi saw it as a play on words:

2 (10 points). Numbers 12:1-9

Describe in your own words the role Moses plays in the story:

Describe in your own words the role Aaron and Miriam play in the story:

What was the punishment given out and to whom was it given?

What makes this a story about Lashon ha-Ra/לשון הרע?

3 (5 points). Case study: you know a boy who usually is pretty quiet, but he has become pretty popular for the gossipy stories he has started to tell about his classmates when he is out with his buddies, walking to the Wawa store before practice.

What word would Rashi use to describe this boy's style of story-telling? _____

One day, the boy called his teammate a loser and a jerk. Was the boy more like Moses, Miriam or Aaron and why? _____

Name _____

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Quiz - May 14, 2015/25 Iyyar 5775

JBHA Honor Code: Please sign your name if you are in agreement with this statement:
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1 (6 points). Here is a section of a text that we studied together:

“R. Johanan said in the name of R. Joseph b. Zimra: One who bears evil tales almost denies the foundation of faith, as it is said: Our tongue will we make mighty; our lips are with us; who is Lord over us? Further did R. Johanan say in the name of R. Joseph b. Zimra: Any one who bears evil tales will be visited by the plague of leprosy, as it is said: Whoso slandereth his neighbor in secret, him will I destroy.”

What is meant by “the foundation of faith”?

In what way do you think “bearing evil tales” could deny “the foundation of faith”?

In class, we spoke about metaphors in this text. Identify at least one metaphor and identify the metaphor’s reference (to what is the metaphor referring)?

2 (2 points). We saw this verse when we were studying one of the texts: “They set their mouths until the heavens, and their tongue struts on earth”. (Psalms 73.9) Explain this verse and its connection to lashon ha-ra in your own words:

3 (4 points). Here is a section of a text that one of you studied that describes the consequences for lashon ha-ra:

“R. Hama b. Hanina said: What is the remedy for slanderers? If he be a scholar, let him engage in the Torah, as it is said: The healing for a tongue is the tree of life, and ‘tongue’ here means the evil tongue, as it is said: ‘Their tongue is a sharpened arrow’, and ‘tree [of life]’ means only the Torah, as it is said: She is a tree of life, to them that lay hold upon her. But if he be an ignorant person, let him become humble.”

What is another word for “slander”? _____

What are the consequences for slander that are described here?

4 (4 pts). We studied this passage about telling the truth about whether or not you really think a bride is beautiful:

“Our Rabbis taught: How does one dance before the bride? Beth Shammai say: The bride as she is. And Beth Hillel say: Beautiful and graceful bride!” Beth Shammai said to Beth Hillel: If she was lame or blind, does one say of her: O Beautiful and graceful bride?” Whereas the Torah said, (Exodus 23:7) “Keep thee far from a false matter.” Said Beth Hillel to Beth Shammai: According to your words, if one has made a bad purchase in the market, should one praise it in his eyes or depreciate it? Surely, one should praise it in his eyes. Therefore, the Sages said: Always should the disposition of man be pleasant with people.”

Now explain the difference between the views of Hillel and Shammai:

Explain how the quote from the Torah supports one of the two rabbis, Hillel or Shammai:

5 (4 pts). If you go into a store to look at some shirts, and if the sales person asks you what you think, would it be lashon ha-ra if you tell the sales person that aren't impressed by the quality and design of the shirts?

Would you follow Hillel or Shammai in this situation, and why?
