

Lashon Hara

Ref: *Sefer Taharah, Hilchot Tzaraat, Chapter 16*

Tzaraat is not a natural occurrence. It is a sign and wonder from Hashem to warn against *lashon hara* (undesirable speech).

When a person speaks *lashon hara*:

- The walls of his house change colour.

If he repents the house becomes purified. If not

- House becomes destroyed.
- Then leather implements like beds and chairs change colour.

If he repents they will be purified. If not

- Implements are burnt.
- His clothes changes colour.

If he repents they will be purified. If not

- Clothes are burnt.
- His skin changes colour.

This causes him to be isolated, so that he will not be involved in the talk of the wicked.

A person who wishes to structure his life, should distance himself from the gatherings of fools, so as not to get caught up in the web of wickedness.

Miriam received *tzaraat* for a very minor excess of words about her brother *Mosheh*.

How much more so the foolish people who use a major excess of words.

- They gather together and first speak about empty matters.
- Then they speak negatively about good people.
- Then they speak against the Prophets.
- This then leads to denial of G-d.

What set the foolish off on this path? Their tongues which were given free rein when loitering on street corners, drunk parties etc.

In contrast, the speech of proper Jewish people only concern words of Torah and wisdom. Therefore, Hashem assists them and grants merit because of it.