

Tzaarat: The Punishment for Loshon Hora

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2015

In this weeks Parsha, Parshat Tazria-Metzora, it discusses how to determine if someone has Tzaarat. After the Kohen states that a person has tzaraat, they are separated from everyone. This is a very serious situation. Why is tzaraat a punishment for lashon hara? We know from Bereishit that the neshama is what gives us life and makes us a living being. Because of this, it is the neshama that lets us speak. Since the ability to speak and the neshama are so closely related, the neshama is affected by such a great sin such as lashon hara. It is this reason that lashon hara gets a strong punishment. It is very important especially with Lag B'omer and Shavuot coming quickly to be extra careful with our speech.