


מִצְוַת
לֹא תַעֲשֶׂה
#251

 We learn this mitzvah from Parshas Behar: (ויקרא כה:ז)

וְלֹא תוֹנוּ אִישׁ אֶת עֵמִיתוֹ וַיִּרְאֶת מֵאֲלֹקֶיךָ

Today's *mitzvah* is that we are not allowed to hurt other people with our words (*ona'as devarim*). We aren't allowed to say mean things, or things that will make someone embarrassed or feel bad.

For example, we aren't allowed to remind a *Baal Teshuvah* about the *aveiros* he did, or tell someone who is sick that it must be a punishment for something he did. We also can't ask questions that make people think that we are going to buy something when we aren't really planning on buying it.

 The details of this mitzvah are explained in Mishnayos & Gemara: **Mesechta Bava Metzta perek Daled**

Rambam: Hilchos Mechirah

PEREK YUD-GIMMEL

This *perek* teaches us what happens if someone trades or sells something for more than it is really worth. That is called *ona'ah*.

If a person is honest, and says how much each thing is really worth, then it is never called *ona'ah*, since both people agreed to the deal KNOWING that it might not look fair.

PEREK YUD-DALED

The Rambam teaches us more about *ona'ah*. The *Beis Din* needs to make fair prices for things so that nobody will pay too much.

We also learn about *Ona'as Devarim*: We need to be careful how we talk, not telling someone to buy something in a store that doesn't really sell it, or pretending that we want to buy something when we really don't want to. This *mitzvah* is also important when we aren't doing business, that we can't say something that will hurt another person or end up leaving him feeling bad.

PEREK TES-VOV

Now the Rambam teaches us about "*Mekach To'us*" — when someone can say "I wouldn't have bought this if I knew about this problem!" For example, if you knew that the bike seat is wobbly and sometimes falls off, you might have bought a different bike instead. You can go and get your money back from the person who sold it to you!