

Proper Intent for Permitted Lashon Hara

Notes for video found at <https://vimeo.com/350392870>

Rabbi Shalom Zagelbaum

- 1) One may not say something negative about someone else, unless it is for a positive benefit to another person.
- 2) The Chofetz Chaim writes that when asking for information one should say that he needs to know the information for a positive benefit. If not, he is causing the speaker to violate the prohibition of lashon hara.
- 3) Our sages tell us that one who intended to eat non-kosher meat, but unknowingly ate kosher meat, is not in violation of that sin.

Question: Why should the case of the Chofetz Chaim be different than the case of the one who intended to eat non-kosher meat? In other words, why should the speaker be in violation if his words had a positive benefit, despite his intention?