



Profanity

7. Below is a brief review of the laws of *nivul peh*, inappropriate language, which were discussed at length in previous emails.

A. It is forbidden to speak words of *nivul peh*. (*Kesubos 8a; Shabbos 33a; Rishonim ad loc.; Charedim 24:49; Shulchan Aruch OC 307:16 and EH 25:1*)

B. The prohibition against speaking *nivul peh* is not limited to inappropriate language. It also dictates that the topics a person speaks about must be refined. (*ibid.*; see also *Pele Yoetz, erch Dibbur*)

C. Even if someone uses refined words, if it is evident that he is hinting to vulgar things or immodest matters, he has violated the prohibition against speaking *nivul peh*. (*ibid.*)

D. It is similarly forbidden to listen to, read, or write vulgarities. (*ibid.*)

E. *Chazal* use very strong terms when discussing this prohibition and say that the sin of *nivul peh* is the cause of many misfortunes. (*Shabbos 33a; Kesubos 8b*)