



Young Israel of Bal Harbour The Dose

Wednesday September 2, 2015, Elul 18 , 5775

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The well-known verse in Psalms (44:13) states *Mi Ha'ish Hechofetz Chaim...* "Who wants to live? Guard your tongue from speaking evil" since the month of Elul is when we petition G-d for life, happiness, and success it is clear that we must reevaluate our manner of speech and work to improve it. In a most astonishing statement, the Vilna Gaon in his famous letter (*iggeres Hagra*) that he wrote to his family before he traveled to Eretz Yisroel (Which never came to fruition). He says that the most powerful factor in determining our *Olam Habah* is proper speech. Whatever the Vilna Gaon says is Torah from Sinai, it is the holy of holies. So more than anything else what we say about others and to others is the most important factor in receiving a good judgement. (In a situation where you must say something to someone or about someone for a constructive purpose the *Chofetz Chaim* has specific criteria that must be met-consult your local Rabbi for halachic details).

*Sefer: Yamin Noraim
Rabbi Moshe Weiss*

Wishing you a great and inspiring day!

Rabbi Moshe Gruenstein