

## I HATE CRITICISM II

### Background

When the Torah mentions the obligation to rebuke a fellow Jew, it ends with the words, “and do not carry his sin.” The Targum translates this as, “And do not receive a punishment for his sin.”

#### ספר ויקרא פרק יט

(יז) לא תשנא את אחיך  
בלבבך הוכח תוכיח את  
עמיתך ולא תשא עליו  
חטא

*Do not hate your brother  
in your heart; rebuke your  
nation and do not carry  
his sin.*

#### תרגום אונקלוס על ויקרא פרק יט פסוק יז

(יז) לא תשני ית אחוך  
בלבך אוכחא תוכח ית  
חברך ולא תקבל על דליה  
חובא

*Do not hate your brother  
in your heart; rebuke your  
friend and do not receive  
a punishment for his sin.  
(See the Ramban on this  
posuk.)*

### Questions

According to the Targum, it appears that if Reuvain ate a ham sandwich and I didn't rebuke him, I would be punished for his sin. Why should this be? At most, you might argue that if I was capable of rebuking him and didn't, I would be responsible for the sin of not rebuking him. But how do I become responsible for the sin that he perpetrated? He transgressed it, not me.

One of the cardinal rules of human behavior is not to criticize others. It antagonizes, it alienates, it causes friction and ill feelings – it just doesn't work. If so, how can the Torah expect and even obligate us to be critical and rebuke our neighbor?