The Daily Portion
Sivan Rahav-Meir

Thinking is Not Photogenic

How many words did we say since the morning? And how many more will we say till the end of the day?

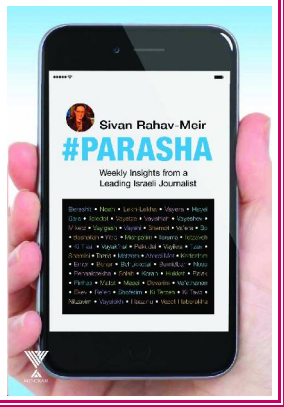
About how many of them will we think before, or after?

This week's Portion deals with the importance of the words that we say, and calls upon us to pay attention to the vows and verbal promises we make:

"...he shall not break his word; he shall do according to all that comes out of his mouth." (Bamidbar 30:3)

In our day and age it has become more complicated to pay attention to every word. Prof. Neil Postman, one of the foremost media researchers in our generation, has determined that technological development floods us with words, and the quantity comes at the expense of quality. Here is a short, thought provoking text by him:

"We are flooded with disinformation. Not disinformation in the form of lies, but in the form of noise. Most of the information is not misleading, but simply out of place, scattered, non-relevant, superficial; information that creates the illusion of knowing, but actually keeps us away from knowing. Ours is a culture that speaks itself to death, that without our noticing - takes away our ability to think. Most of the broadcasted content is disinformation. During a TV show, for example, the participants are not granted the option to ask 'what do you mean when you say...?' or 'let me think about it' or 'I don't know'. There is not much to show when we think. It's a problem. Thinking is not photogenic."



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