

# The Three Gates

If you are tempted to reveal  
A tale someone to you has told  
About another, make it pass,  
Before you speak, three gates of gold.

Three narrow gates — first, “Is it true?”  
Then, “Is it needful?” In your mind  
Give truthful answer, and the next,  
If last and narrowest, “Is it kind?”

And if to reach your lips at last  
It passes through these gateways three,  
Then you may tell the tale, nor fear  
What the result of speech may be.

Poem by Chauncy Hare Townshend