



From the desk of
MORDECHAI MALKA
 Chief Rabbi of Elad, Israel
 Founder and President of Or Hamelech Institutions
 Member of Chief Rabbinate of Israel



Office of the Rabbinate of Elad, Rosh HaAyin and Herzelia

עיר התורה שקרובה אליך

Religious Court of Elad * Batei Hora'ah * Religious Services * Marriage Licensing * Kashrut * Mikvaot * Eiruvim

TORAT

Parashat Shoftim

HAMELECH

Judges at the Gates

"Judges and police officers establish for yourselves at all of your gates..."

Why does the Torah add the word "lecha" – "for you"?

Rav Chayim Vital explains that a person has numerous gateways. On his head there are seven gates: two eyes, two ears, two nostrils and a mouth. Now, most people do not even notice what goes in and out of these gates. But the Torah here tells us that we must appoint judges and policemen. Do not just let everything in and out. Think before you look, listen, hear, smell, eat, drink and speak! There are some things which we may not look at, listen to, etc.

With today's technology, some really inappropriate material is at our doorstep, begging for entrance. We mustn't let it in! The cost is too great!

Kli Yakar has a different explanation. He says: Judge yourself before judging others. Community leaders will only be successful if they themselves are upstanding citizens and follow the rules.

It's for Your Own Good!

Let us suggest a third approach. We find that sometimes "lecha" means: for your own good. Yes, realize that the judicial system is there for your own benefit. Not only so that you can extract money which is rightfully yours, but also so that you can be relieved of money which is rightfully not yours! When a person goes to Beit Din, he should be just as happy if he loses the case than if he wins! Even more so, he should be

happier if he loses. Why? Because if he wins, what did he get? Some money?

And if he loses the case and must hand over money? What did he gain? He saved himself from much grief in this world and the next! When din is done in the world, that saves Yisrael from punishment and invites goodness to the world. (Medrash Tanchuma, Shoftim 6)

Some people seem to be nice and pleasant until... they go to Beit Din. Then you see who they really are! As our Sages teach: You can tell a whole lot about a person when you see how he deals with money matters. (Eiruvim 65b)

Some people feel wronged monetarily and feel that they can go to secular courts... oy vey! That is very severe! Even if they go to a real Beit Din, if they lose, they have bad things to say about the *dayanim*, and if they win, they compliment them.

Our Sages teach that one who loses a monetary case in Beit Din should sing! Even if he had to pay with the shirt off his back! Each generation has its *dayanim* who were hand-picked by HaKadosh Baruch Hu to serve in that capacity for this generation in this location.

A Zechut for Yom Hadin

Some say to avoid going to *Beit Din* in *Aseret Yemei Teshuvah*. (O.C. 603) Levush says: Just the opposite! There is no better time than now! Settling money matters according to Halachah is a great *zechut* for *Yom Hadin*! If we take care of *dinim* here in this world, that will save us from strict judgment of upper spheres! Settling money matters according to Halachah breeds peace, as we learn in Avot (1:18).



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The Hard-Working Horse

The Baal Shem Tov knew that Reuven owed Shimon money, but passed away before he paid back. He went to see how he could help Reuven's soul. The Baal Shem Tov paid R' Shimon a visit and asked to buy a certain horse from him. R' Shimon did not wish to part with that horse, since it worked as hard as several horses.

The Baal Shem Tov then asked R' Shimon if R' Reuven had owed him any money. R' Shimon ascertained that he did. He even had a document of proof. The Baal Shem Tov begged him to forego any claims to the loan, for the benefit of Reuven's soul. R' Shimon was *mochel* the loan and his prize horse died.

The Baal Shem Tov explained that that horse was none other than R' Reuven in disguise who had to work for R' Shimon until his production rate would match the value of the loan.

A Dream Come True

In another story, Rav Yosef Grossman passed away and came in a dream to Rav Hodaya. Rav Grossman said that he owes 100 shekel to Mr. Dovid Ochion and he cannot get to his rightful place in Heaven until the account is settled.

Rav Hodaya sent a messenger to Rav Nussbaum who contacted Rav Grossman's family who took care of the loan and paid the hundred shekel to Mr. Ochion.

Another Dream Came True

In another story, Mr. Shimshon Weiner passed away at age 82. The very next day, he came to his daughter in a dream and asked her to pay ten

shekel which he owed to the Ohr Yosef organization. The daughter asked her mother if they owed anything to Ohr Yosef. Mrs. Weiner replied that for two weeks already, Mr. Weiner had been trying to pay back that ten shekel. On the day of his *petirah*, Mr. Weiner repeatedly asked his children to contact Ohr Yosef. After his passing, they saw that he had tried 8 times to contact Ohr Yosef from his phone. Perhaps in the merit of his efforts while he was here, he was given permission to return in a dream so that the account could be settled.

A Third Dream Come True

On 15 Av 5776, young Eliyahu Magori of Bnei Brak passed away at the tender age of 20. Four days later, he appeared in a dream to an *avreich* in Tzefat, asking him to pay seven shekel to the Tulna Mikveh. The *bachur* had been there recently and planned on paying, but the matter slipped his mind until it was too late. But it was not too late. Eliyahu came back in a dream and Rabbi Kahana paid the seven shekel.

Automatic Winners!

So let's take care of all money matters while we are still here! Not everyone is given the wherewithal to make those "long distance calls"! Some have to come back and work like horses! Or worse! Who knows?!

Let us appreciate the Torah's judicial system and follow it to the letter: whether we win or lose, if we abide by Beit Din's ruling and respect the *dayanim*, we are automatic winners!

Shabbat Shalom!
Mordechai Malka