



Inside the Daf

In Jewish law, we believe the testimony of two witnesses. But what happens if another pair of witnesses come and say that the first pair of witnesses are wrong? Who do we believe?

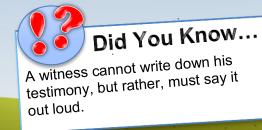
The גְּמָרָא brings the case of בַּר שַׁטְיָא .בַּר שַׁטְיָא was a man of sound mind who sometimes suffered from bouts of temporary insanity.

When a man is of sound mind, the Torah allows him to buy and sell things. When he loses his sanity, he is not able to buy and sell. That means that anything that he buys while he is not of sound mind, does not belong to him, and anything that he sells still belongs to him.

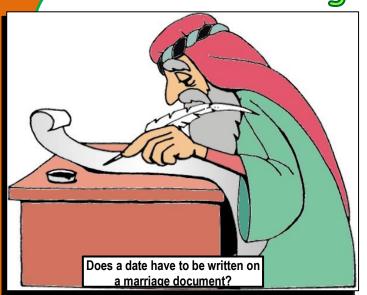
The גְּמָרָא asks what happens if two witnesses say בֵּר שַׁטְיָא sold his land while he was of sound mind, and another two witnesses say he sold it while insane? Do we believe the first witnesses and say the sale is proper, or do we believe the second pair and say that the land was never sold?

The answer is, בֵּר שַׁטְיָא will still own the land. Since we are in doubt about who owns it, we do not remove the land from its owner.





Dating the Marriage



If you have ever been to a wedding, you probably noticed that the groom puts a ring on the finger of the bride. This isn't just a nice gift. The giving of the ring actually turns the bride and groom into a married couple.

But that isn't the only way for a man and a woman to become married. A שְׁטֶר קִידּוּשִׁין (wedding document) can be given by the man to his bride. This document says that the man is marrying the woman.

The גְּמָרָא says that you don't have to write the date

of the marriage on a שְׁטֶר קִידּוּשִׁין. Since you don't have to write down the marriage date when a man marries a woman by giving her a ring, the Sages ruled that you don't have to write down the date on a שְׁטֶר קִידּוּשִׁין, either.

On a גט (divorce document), the date of the divorce must be written.

A מדות Moment

"Zecharia," said his father, "have you said sorry to Jason for ruining his bike?"

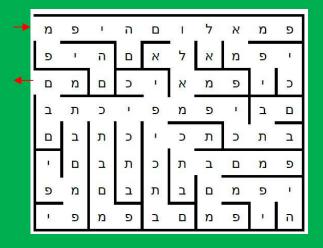
"Nah, I'll just write him an apology note," Zecharia said.

"You should apologize to him in person. We learn that witnesses must *say* their testimony rather than write it down. This is because speech has special qualities that can't be captured in writing. Speech is more personal and can move people more."

(based on בית מדות ליעבץ)

Games WORDMA776

Follow the phrase "מַפִּיהֶם וְלֹא מִפִּי כְּתַבָם" to find your way out!



Review Questions – יְבָמוֹת דַּף ל"א

1. Who was בַּר שַׁטְיָא?

2. Which document needs a date: a divorce document or a marriage document?

3. What sort of testimony may a witness not give?