

Sometimes, someone can do something good for the wrong reasons.

For example, if someone converts to Judaism just to marry someone they love who is Jewish. Or, if one converts so that a Jewish king would supply him with food. Or, if someone converted in the days of שְׁלֹמֵה הַמֶּלֶךְ (King Solomon) to become one of his servants (who were very powerful). In all of these cases, רַבִּי נְחֶמְיָה says their conversion is invalid and they do not become Jewish since they converted for the wrong reasons.

קבי נְחֶמְיָה says, a convert to Judaism is only excepted if he or she converted at a time like nowadays when the Jews don't enjoy any extraordinary power. That way, we may know for near certain that they did not convert for any improper reason.

There were cases in Jewish history when large numbers of non-Jews converted for less than proper reasons. For example, the פוּתִים (Cutheans) converted out of fear after Hashem sent a plague of lions against them. Following the miracle in the days of מָּרְדֻּכִי (Mordecai) and אַסְתֵּר (Esther), many non-Jews converted "for fear the Jews had fallen on them" (see אַסְתָּר, Es. 8,17).

The Sages disagree with רַבִּי נְחֶמְיָה and say that even converts who come to Judaism for improper reasons are still valid converts.

A הודת Moment

"Did you see this headline?" asked Ilan. "A policeman discovered the chief of police stealing money. Now that policeman has been made chief of police!"

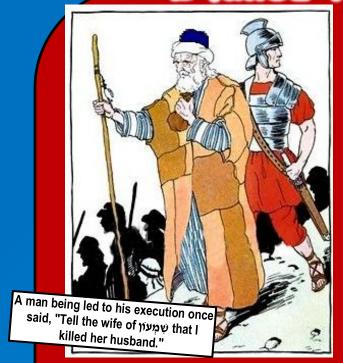
"That's not so good," said Brian. "In *daf yomi* today, we learn that if you are involved in someone's downfall, you shouldn't benefit from it. That causes people to gossip that you brought about his downfall on purpose."







"I_Killed_Your_Husband"



If a man comes up to someone's wife and says, "I killed your husband," may he marry her?

The מִשְׁנָה says, no. When a man testifies that he killed someone, he makes himself into a wicked person. We don't believe the words of the wicked. Therefore, we do not even believe that the husband is dead.

Once, a robber was on his way to be executed.

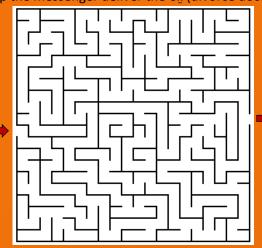
On his way he cried out, "Tell the wife of that I killed her husband."

In this case, the Sages allowed the wife of שָׁמְעוֹן to remarry. But, asks the גְּמֶרָא, how can this be? By saying he killed a man, isn't the robber a wicked man whose word cannot be believed? Who's to say שַׁמְעוֹן is even dead?

רַבִּי יְהוּדָה explains that the robber really said he was with the people who killed שָׁמְעוֹן but that he himself did not kill him. This way, he is not a wicked man and may be believed.

Games

Help the messenger deliver the Da (divorce document





Review Questions – יַבמוֹת דַף כ"ה

The חַלִּיצָה (taking off the shoe) ceremony must be done in front of a בית דִּין (Jewish court) of three men.

- 1. Why may a messenger bringing a גָט not marry the recipient?
- 2. Why do we not believe someone to say he killed a person?
- 3. In front of whom must חַלִּיצָה be performed?