

Inside the Daf



The Torah says that "על פי שְׁנֵי עֵדִים... יָקוּם דְּבָר" "a matter is established by the word of two witnesses" (דברים יט, טו, Deut. 19,15). That means that a בֵּית דִּין (Jewish court) will not believe anything if only *one* witness says it.

But there is a time we *do* believe just one witness. If a single witness testifies that a man died, we believe him (or her) and let the man's wife remarry.

Why do we believe a single witness to let the wife remarry? The גְּמָרָא explains that the Sages were lenient for the sake of an עֲגוּנָא (a woman who cannot remarry). If the Sages would have been strict and said that two witnesses must testify about a man's death before his wife could remarry, there would be many women unable to remarry since *two* witnesses did not come forward to say her husband died. But if only *one* witness is needed to testify about a man's death, more women will be able to remarry since it is far more likely that *one* person will come forward to testify about a man's death than two people.

מִדּוֹת

Moment

"Abba, why aren't you talking to that man who said 'hi' to you?"

"Jason, that man is very wicked and cruel. His wife wants a divorce from him but he is refusing to grant her wish. His wife will be unable to move on with her life and remarry until the man agrees to divorce her. He is making her an עֲגוּנָא, a chained woman!"

"The Sages were very sensitive to an עֲגוּנָא and even lightened the rules so that an עֲגוּנָא may remarry based on the testimony of just a single witness. We see how important is to let a woman remarry and how callous are those who do not!"

WORD OF THE DAY:

מ"ט מאי טעמא
"WHAT IS THE REASON?"

The Power of One

We learned that, in order for there not to be עגונות (women who cannot remarry), the Sages made a special rule. They said that even *one* witness may testify that a man died so that the man's wife may remarry.

What happens if, after one witness testifies that a man had died, and two other witnesses come along and say that the same man is in fact, alive? Do we believe the *one* witness who said the man is dead (and let his wife remarry) or do we believe the *two* witnesses who said the man is alive (and not let his wife remarry)?

רבי נחמיה says that we believe the *two* witnesses against the one. Therefore, if the two would testify that the man is alive, his wife would not be allowed to remarry.



Did You Know...

When יוסף (Joseph) saw his brothers for the first time in more than 20 years, the Torah says they did not recognize him. The גמרא explains why: When he left his brothers he did not have a full beard, when they next saw him his beard was full!

SECRET CODE

Use the code to find how we say...

THE RABBIS WERE LENIENT BECAUSE OF THE CHAINED WOMAN



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★	◆	◇	■	✱	✱	●	☞	✱

Games

Review Questions – יבמות דף פ"ח

1. Why is one witness believed to say a man has died?

2. According to רבי נחמיה, when would one witness not be believed?

3. Why did יוסף's (Joseph) brothers not recognize him?
