

מִצְוַת
לֹא תַעֲשֶׂה
#253

📖 We learn this mitzvah from Parshas Mishpatim: (שמות כ"ב:)

וְגֵר לֹא תוֹנֶה

Today's *mitzvah* is that we're not allowed to cheat a *Ger*, to sell him something for too much money or buy something from him for too little.

Of course, we can't cheat ANYONE! But the Torah adds an extra *aveira*, so that we will be extra-careful with a *Ger*. Since the *Ger* had to leave behind so much of what he was used to in order to become a *Yid*, we need to be even more careful not to hurt him in any way.

Rambam: Hilchos Mechirah

PEREK YUD-TES

In today's Rambam, we learn more about how to buy and sell things according to the Torah!

First we learn about selling something that might get ruined. We are also not allowed to sell someone a house that is being argued about in *Beis Din*, because then the person who bought it will have to go to *Beis Din*! Another *halacha* is that if we sell something with a warranty, by promising to pay for anything that happens to it, we still don't need to pay if there was an earthquake and it got ruined, because that's something that we wouldn't expect to happen!

PEREK CHOF

This *perek* teaches us what we do if people argue about if they sold or bought something. Who needs to prove that it belongs to them? The *halacha* is, "*Hamotzi MeChaveiro, Alav Haraya.*" The one that has it now doesn't need to prove anything — the other person, who wants to take it away from them, needs to prove that it is theirs.

PEREK CHOF-ALEF

We are not allowed to sell something that is a surprise. The person we are selling to needs to know exactly what he is getting! If not, it is like gambling, because he might be getting a very good deal or wasting all of his money!

Since sometimes people mean different things with the same words, the Rambam gives rules to know exactly what a person is selling. For example, if a person sells something like "a piece of land to build a house on," does that mean big enough to build a mansion, or a little *sukkah*? The Rambam tells us that if the seller doesn't say anything different, the person who buys it is able to use a certain amount of space.