

מְצוֹת
לֹא תַעֲשֶׂה
#241

 We learn this mitzvah from Parshas Ki Seitzei: (דברים כד:ח) **וְלֹא תַחְבֹּל בְּגֵד אִלְמָנָה**

When a person borrows money, how will the person who lent him money make sure he gets paid back? One of the ways is to have a *mashkon*, something that belongs to the person who borrowed the money, that he keeps with him until the loan is paid back.

We can't take a *mashkon* from an *almanah* (a widow), even if she is rich.

 The details of this mitzvah are explained in Mishnayos & Gemara: **Mesechta Bava Metziah perek Tes**

The Rebbe tells us that this *mitzvah* teaches us an important lesson in *Ahavas Yisroel!* We learn how careful we need to be not to cause pain to another Yid.

The *almanah* might be very rich, and she really doesn't need the *mashkon*. The person who is lending her money doesn't want to hurt her by taking a *mashkon*, he is just trying to make sure he gets his money back! If he doesn't take a *mashkon*, it might make it harder to get back his loan.

But since there is a small *sofek* that taking a *mashkon* will remind the *almanah* what she is missing, and cause her pain, we are not allowed to take the *mashkon*. There is a special *Mitzvas Lo Saasei* that tells us that we put our own money into *sakanah* to be EXTRA careful not to hurt the *almanah*.

We see that we need to be careful not to hurt another Yid even if we think it probably won't hurt the other person, even if it could hurt us, and even if what we are doing is not meant to hurt them.

By a Yid being careful not to give pain to another Yid, even just a *sofek*, Hashem pays us back *Midah Keneged Midah*, that nothing should hurt him — especially not his *Yetzer Hara!*

See sicha Ner Hey D'Chanukah 5747, to Tzivos Hashem

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📖 We learn this mitzvah from Parshas Ki Seitzei: (דברים כד:)

לֹא יִחַבֵּל רַחֲמִים וְרֵכֶב
כִּי נֶפֶשׁ הוּא חֵבֶל

We can't take kitchen things as a *mashkon*, or anything used to make food, like for example a knife or a mixing bowl.

 The details of this mitzvah are explained in Mishnayos & Gemara:
Mesechta Bava Metziah perek Tes

Rambam: Hilchos Malveh VeLoveh

PEREK YUD-GIMMEL

We learn about paying back a loan. If the person who borrowed money didn't pay it back on time, he may be allowed to sell the *mashkon*.

PEREK YUD-DALED

This *perek* teaches us what happens if someone says "I already paid it back!" and the other person says he didn't. Sometimes the borrower can make a *shevuah* (a very strong Torah promise) in front of a *Beis Din* to prove he paid it back.

PEREK TES-VOV

This *perek* has *halachos* about when someone borrowed money with a condition — like saying "you have to pay me back in front of witnesses."

The Rambam says that one *halacha* was not clear in the *Gemara*, but he found an old *Gemara*, written on parchment, that was a little bit different. Based on what it said there, everything is clear!