

You may think it could never happen. Let's say someone married one of two sisters, but after the marriage he forgot which one he married.

The problem is, one may not live with one's wife's sister. Therefore, there is a major problem here. If the man makes a mistake about who he married, and lives with her, he is violating a Torah commandment! What should he do?

The מִשְׁנָה says he must divorce both of them. We can't take the chance he'll live with the wrong one. Marrying both sisters is out of the question since the Torah forbids marrying two sisters. Also, the man may not divorce one sister and then marry the other since she could be the sister of his divorced wife whom the Torah says he may not marry.

What happens if the man dies childless before divorcing both sisters? Would his brother perform בּנִּם (levirate marriage)? If so, with whom would he perform יָבנּם?

Because we do not know which sister is really the man's wife, the living brother must perform חֲלִיצָה (taking off the shoe) with both women. He may not perform יְבוּם with either sister just in case she is really the *sister* of his brother's wife. The Sages ruled one may not perform יְבוֹם with the sister of one's brother's wife.

Married-in-Sin

You can't marry a cow, or a piece of furniture. What happens if one performs a marriage ceremony with one of these things? The answer is: Nothing happens. The "marriage" is meaningless. The same goes for marrying a close relative, like one's sister. The marriage doesn't work and it is as if nothing has been done.

But what if someone marries a person whom the Torah commands us not to marry? For example, what if a man marries a מַמְיֶּנֶת (an "illegitimate" woman, born from a forbidden relationship)? Marrying a מַמְיֶּנֶת is forbidden by the Torah (see דברים כג,ג, Deut. 23,3).



If a man marries a woman whom he is not allowed to marry, the גְּמָרָא explains that the wife is "hated before Hashem." רֵב פָּפָּא says that even though a man may not marry a מְמְזֶרֶת, if he does the marriage works.

Therefore, if the man had a son before he married the מִמְנֶרֶת, and then had a daughter with the מִמְנֶרֶת, the son would not be allowed to marry the daughter since she

came from a valid marriage.

A אים אים Moment

"Hey! I have an idea," said Mordechai. "Let's hide Zevi's lunch from him! It'll be so funny watching him look for it!"

"You aren't allowed to hide someone's property," said Zvulun. "It's like stealing."

"Oh, c'mon," said Mordechai, "it'll be fun to do!"

"It doesn't matter if *you* want to do something. If it's against the Torah then Hashem doesn't want you to. The גְּמֶרֶא says that if one marries a woman whom he is not allowed to marry, even if she is loving, caring and kind, she is called 'hated to Hashem.' After all is said and done, we have to evaluate our actions according to what Hashem thinks. *Not* according to what *we* think."

Games

Review Questions – יְבָמוֹת דַּף כ"ג

- 1. If a man forgets which of two sisters he married, what must he do?
- 2. If a man marries a מְמֵצֶרֶת does the marriage work?
- 3. What sort of woman is "hated before Hashem"?

FINISH IT OFF!

Finish the other half of the ring

