

Inside the Daf

Do you think it would be difficult to be married to more than one woman? The גמרא thinks so. After all, a man has to provide for his wife's needs and the more wives and man has, the more needs he has to provide for! That's why the גמרא says that the Jewish court should discourage men from marrying more than one wife (nowadays a man is allowed to have only one wife).

If there are four brothers who all died childless living widows behind, the surviving brother is discouraged by the court from performing יבום (levirate marriage). Since it would be hard for him to provide for so many wives, it is better for him to perform הליצה (shoe removal ceremony) instead.

The גמרא gives other advice about marriage. For example, if a man is about to perform יבום (levirate marriage) with a woman who is much older than he, the court tells him, "What do you have in common with an old woman? Go after a woman similar to your own age and don't bring arguments into your home!" If a man marries a woman with whom he does not have much in common, this can lead to many arguments.



Did You Know...

Usually the court can appoint a messenger to bring someone to court. For the הליצה ceremony, the court must summon the יבם themselves!

A Moment

Uri's sister had decided to pick a fight. For about fifteen minutes she had been yelling at her brother about some infraction. He had started to yell back and soon the situation got very out of hand.

His father called the two together.

"The גמרא says one should avoid bringing arguments into one's home. That means if you can stop an argument from happening by keeping your mouth closed and not saying something, you must!"



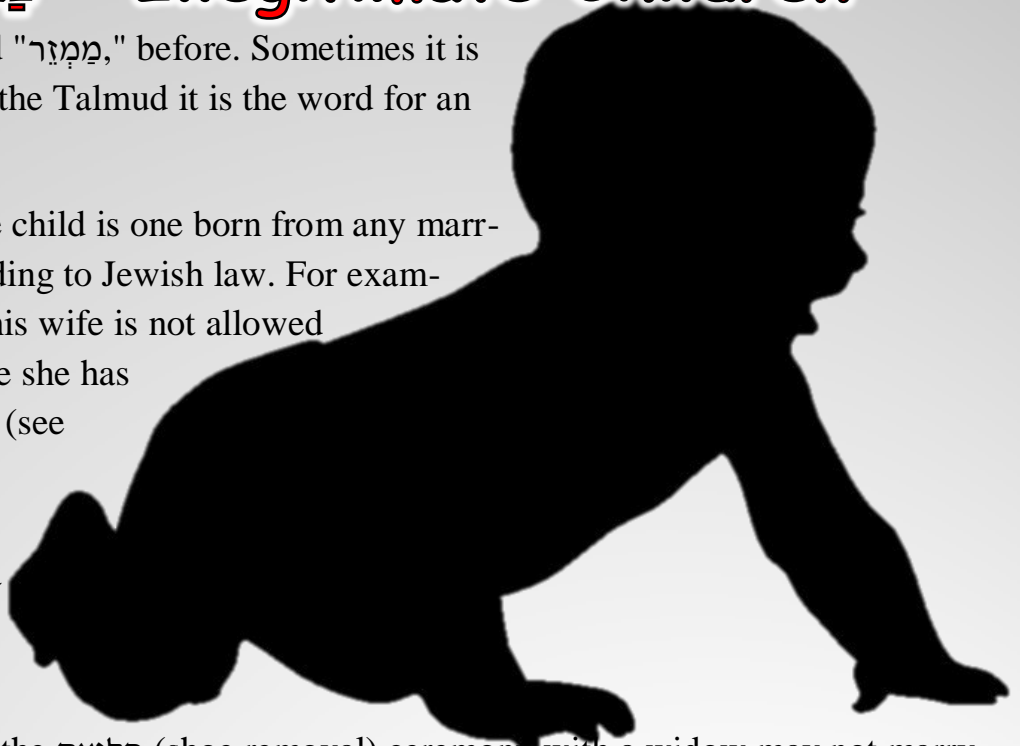
If a man marries a woman with whom he does not have much in common, this can lead to many arguments.

Illegitimate Children - מְמָזְרִים

You may have heard the word "מְמָזְר," before. Sometimes it is used as a vulgar insult, but in the Talmud it is the word for an "illegitimate child."

רַבִּי עֲקִיבָא says, an illegitimate child is one born from any marriage that is not allowed according to Jewish law. For example, a husband who divorces his wife is not allowed to remarry her afterwards once she has been married to someone else (see דברים כד, א-ד, Deut. 24, 1-4).

רַבִּי עֲקִיבָא says, if he does remarry her and if they have a child together, the child is a מְמָזְר.



Also, someone who performs the הַלִּיצָה (shoe removal) ceremony with a widow may not marry her. If he does and the couple have a child, the child is a מְמָזְר according to רַבִּי עֲקִיבָא.

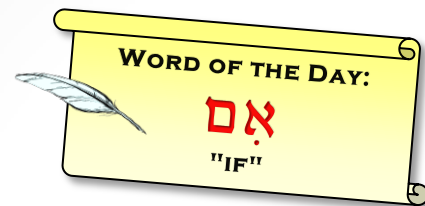
A מְמָזְר is not allowed to marry into the Jewish community. He, or she, may marry only another מְמָזְר or a convert.

A Moment מְדוּת

ri's sister had decided to pick a fight. For about fifteen minutes she had been yelling at her brother about some infraction. He had started to yell back and soon the situation got very out of hand.

His father called the two together.

"The גְּמָרָא says one should avoid bringing arguments into one's home. That means if you can stop an argument from happening by keeping your mouth closed and not saying something, you must!"



Games

Review Questions – יבמות דף מ"ד

1. What advice is given to a man who must perform יבום with many widows?

2. What is a מְמָזְר?

3. What may a court not appoint a messenger for?

BOXED IN

Use the boxes to copy the picture

