

שנים אוחוים בעלת זה אומאנימא מינאתין וזה אומאנימין מינאתין וזה אומאנימינאונים וזה או מינאתים וזה אומאנימין וזה אומאנימין מלה שלי וזה אומבולה שלי וזה יישבע שאין לובה פחות מחיציה וזה ישבע שאין לובה פחות מחיציה שלי האומבולה שלי וזה אומביל שאין לובה פחות מינים שאין לובה פחות מינים שאין לובה פחות מינים שאין לובה אומרים וזה מיניל שלושה חלקים וזה מעלובים בי היו שנים רכובים עלוכים מינול וה אומבילה שלי וה ישבע שאין לופחות מחיציה וזה ישבע שאין לופחות מחיציה וזה ישבע שאין לופחות מחיציה וזה ישבע שאין לופחות מחיציה יותל אומרים שהן מחיץ ווה ווה ישבע שאין וופחות מחיציה יותל אומרים שהן מחיץ ווה ווה ישבע שאין וופחות מחיציה יותל אומרים שהן מחיץ ווה מחיציה ווה ישבע שאין



Week 2: BM Chapter 1-2

Mishnah in Depth

מסכת בבא מציעא Tractate Bava Metzia

Dr. Rachel Furst Drisha, Fall 2024

(Arbitrary?) Division of "Tractate Nezikin" into 3 equal units (of 10 chapters each)

Baba Kama (First Gate) Tractate Nezikin, Chapters 1–10

Baba Metzia (Middle Gate) Tractate Nezikin, Chapters 11–20

Baba Batra (Final Gate) Tractate Nezikin, Chapters 21–30

(Thematic) Division of "Tractate Nezikin" into 5 equal units (of 6 chapters each)

Baba Kama, Chapters 1–6	Damages to property
Baba Kama, Chapter 7 – Bava Metzia, Chapter 2	Theft/robbery and lost property
Bava Metzia, Chapters 3 –8	Guardians (shomrim) and workers
Bava Metzia, Chapter 9 – Bava Batra, Chapter 4	Land and buildings
Bava Batra, Chapters 5 -10	Assorted topics (including sales, inheritance, and legal documents)

Maimonides' Mishneh Torah

- 1. Sefer Ha-Madda (The Book of Knowledge)
- 2. Sefer Ahavah (The Book of Love [of God])
- 3. Sefer Zemanim (The Book of Seasons)
- 4. Sefer Nashim (The Book of Women)
- 5. Sefer Kedushah (The Book of Holiness)
- 6. Sefer Hafla'ah (The Book of Utterances)
- 7. Sefer Zera'im (The Book of Seeds)
- 8. *Sefer Avodah* (The Book of Temple Service)
- 9. Sefer Korbanot (The Book of Sacrifices)
- 10. Sefer Taharah (The Book of Purity)
- 11. Sefer Nezikin (The Book of Damages)
 - Nizqei Mamon: property damage
 - Geneivah: theft
 - Gezeilah v'Avidah: robbery and lost property
 - Hovel uMaziq: one who injures another
 - Rotzeah uShmirat Nefesh: murderers and life preservation
- 12. Sefer Kinyan (The Book of Acquisition)
- 13. Sefer Mishpatim (The Book of Civil Laws)
- 14. Sefer Shofetim (The Book of Judges)



Maimonides, *Mishneh Torah*, *Sefer Zemanim* – Yemen, 14th century

Exodus 23:4

When you encounter your enemy's ox or ass wandering, you must take it back.

Deuteronomy 22:1-3

If you see your fellow Israelite's ox or sheep gone astray, do not ignore it; you must take it back to your peer. If your fellow Israelite does not live near you or you do not know who [the owner] is, you shall bring it home and it shall remain with you until your peer claims it; then you shall give it back. You shall do the same with that person's ass; you shall do the same with that person's garment; and so too shall you do with anything that your fellow Israelite loses and you find: you must not remain indifferent.

שמות כג:ד

ּכִּי תִפְנַּגַע שְׁוֹר אְּיִבְךֶּ אָוֹ חֲמֹרָוֹ תּּעֶה הָשֵׁב תְּשִׁיבֶנוּ לְוֹ: {o}

דברים כב:א-ג

לְּאֹ־תִּרְאֶה אֶת־שׁׁוֹר אָחִיךְ אָוֹ אֶת־שִׁיוֹ נִדְּחִים וְהִתְעַלֵּמְתָּ מֵהֶם הָשֵׁב תְּשִׁיבֶם לְאָחִיךְ: וְאִם־לֹּא קָרָוֹב אָחֶיךְ אֵלֶיךְ וְלָּא יְדַעְתָּוֹ וַאֲסַפְּתּוֹ אֶל־תְּוֹךְ בִּילֶּךְ וְהָיְה עִמְּךָּ עֲד דְּרָשׁ אָחִיךְ אֹתוֹ וַהֲשֵׁבֹתְוֹ לְוֹ: וְכֵּן תַּעֲשֶׂה לַחֲמֹרוֹ וְכֵן תַּעֲשֶׂה לְשִׁמְלָתוֹ וְכֵן תַּעֲשֶׂה לְכָל־אֲבֵדָת אָחֵיךְ אֲשֶׁר־תּאֹבָד מִמֶּנוּ וּמְצָאתָהּ לָא תוּכֵל לְהִתְעַלֵּם: {o}

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Leviticus 19:13

You shall not defraud your fellow [Israelite]. You shall not commit robbery. The wages of a laborer shall not remain with you until morning.

Leviticus 5:23

...when one has thus sinned and, realizing guilt, would restore either that which was gotten through robbery or fraud, or the entrusted deposit, or the lost thing that was found,

שמות כג:ד

ּכִּי תִפְנֵּע שָּׁוֹר אְּיִבְךֶּ אָוֹ חֲמֹרָוֹ תּּעֶה הָשֵׁב הְּשִׁיבֶנוּ לְוֹ: {o}

דברים כב:א-ג

לְּאֹ־תִּרְאֶה אֶת־שׁׁוֹר אָחִיךְ אָוֹ אֶת־שֵׁיוֹ נִדְּחִים וְהִתְעַלֵּמְהָ מֵהֶם הָשֵׁב תְּשִׁיבֶם לְאָחִיךְ: וְאִם־לֹּא קָרָוֹב אָחֵיךְ אֵלֶיךְ וְלָא יְדַעְתָּוֹ וַאֲסַפְּתּוֹ אֶל־תְּוֹךְ בֵּילֶךְ וְהָיָה עִמְּךָ עַד דְּרָשׁ אָחִיךְ אֹתוֹ וַהֲשֵׁבֹתְוֹ לְוֹ: וְכֵן תַּעֲשֶׂה לַחֲמֹרוֹ וְכֵן תַּעֲשֶׂה לְשִׁמְלָתוֹ וְכֵן תַּעֲשֶׂה לְכָל־אֲבֵדָת אָחֵיךְ אֲשֶׁר־תּאֹבָד מִמֶּנוּ וּמְצָאתָהּ לָא תוּכַל לְהִתְעַלֵּם: {o}

ויקרא יט:יג

לְאֹ־תַעֲשָׂק אֶת־רֵעֲךָּ וְלָא תִגְזֹל לְאֹ־תָלְּיו פְּעֻלַּת שָׂכֵיר אִתְּךָ עַד־בְּקֶר:

ויקרא ה:כג

וְהָיָה ๊ כִּי־יֶחֱטָא וְאָשֵׁם ׄ וְהֵשִּׁיב אֶת־הַגְּזֵלָה אֲשֶׁר גָּזָׁל אָוֹ אֶת־הָעֹשֶׁלְ אֲשֶׁר עָשָׁק אָוֹ אֶת־הַפִּקְּדֹוֹן אֲשֶׁר הָפְקַד אִתָּוֹ אָוֹ אֶת־הָאֲבֵדָה אֲשֵׁר מָצֵא:

If **two** people came to court **holding a garment**, and **this** one, the first litigant, **says: I found it, and that** one, the second litigant, **says: I found it**;

this one says: All of it is mine, and that one says: All of it is mine; how does the court adjudicate this case?

This one takes an oath that he does not have ownership of less than half of it, and that one takes an oath that he does not have ownership of less than half of it, and they divide it.

If this one says: All of it is mine, and that one says: Half of it is mine, since they both agree that half of the cloak belongs to one of them, the conflict between them is only about the other half.

Therefore, the one who says: All of it is mine, takes an oath that he does not have ownership of less than three parts, i.e., three-fourths, of it, and the one who says: Half of it is mine, takes an oath that he does not have ownership of less than one-quarter of it.

This one takes three parts, and that one takes one-quarter.

משנה בבא מציעא, א:א

שְׁנַיִם אוֹחֲזִין בְּטַלִּית, זֶה אוֹמֵר אֲנִי מְצָאתִיהָ וְזֶה אוֹמֵר אֲנִי מְצָאתִיהָ, זֶה אוֹמֵר כֻּלָּהּ שֶׁלִּי וְזֶה אוֹמֵר כֻּלָּהּ שֶׁלִּי, זֶה יִשָּׁבַע שָׁאֵין לוֹ בָהּ פָּחוֹת מֵחֶצְיָהּ, וְזֶה יִשְּׁבַע שָׁאֵין לוֹ בָהּ פָּחוֹת מֵחֶצְיָהּ, וְיַחֵלֹקוּ.

זֶה אוֹמֵר כֻּלָּהּ שֶׁלִּי וְזֶה אוֹמֵר חֶצְיָהּ שֶׁלִּי, הָאוֹמֵר כֻּלָּהּ שֶׁלִּי, יִשָּׁבַע שֶׁאֵין לוֹ בָהּ פָּחוֹת מִשְׁלשָׁה חֲלָקִים, וְהָאוֹמֵר חֶצְיָהּ שֶׁלִּי, יִשָּׁבַע שָׁאֵין לוֹ בָהּ פָּחוֹת מֵרְבִיעַ. זֵה נוֹטֵל שָׁלשָׁה חֵלָקִים, וְזֵה נוֹטֵל רְבִיעַ:

If **two** people **were sitting** in a riding position **on** the back of an animal, e.g., a donkey or camel, or one was sitting in a riding position on the animal and one was leading it by its halter, and this one says: All of it is mine, and that one says: All of it is mine, how does the court adjudicate this case? This one takes an oath that he does not have ownership of less than half of it, and that one takes an oath that he does not have ownership of less than half of it, and they divide it. When they admit to the validity of each other's claims or when they each have witnesses attesting to their claims, they divide the disputed item without taking an oath, as an oath is administered only in a case where the parties have no other way to prove their claims.

משנה בבא מציעא, א:ב

הָיוּ שְׁנַיִם רוֹכְבִין עַל גַּבֵּי בְהֵמָה, אוֹ שֶׁהָיָה אֶחָד רוֹכֵב וְאֶחָד מַנְהִיג, זֶה אוֹמֵר כֻּלָּהּ שֶׁלִּי, וְזֶה אוֹמֵר כֻּלָּהּ שֶׁלִּי, זֶה יִשָּׁבַע שֶׁאֵין לוֹ בָהּ פָּחוֹת מֵחֶצְיָהּ, וְזֶה יִשְּׁבַע שֶׁאֵין לוֹ בָהּ פָּחוֹת מֵחֶצְיָהּ, וְיַחֲלֹקוּ. בִּזְמַן שֶׁהֵם מוֹדִים אוֹ שֶׁיֵשׁ לָהֶן עִדִים, חוֹלְקִים בִּלֹא שָׁבוּעָה:

If one was riding on an animal and saw a found item, and said to another person who was walking beside him: Give it to me, if the pedestrian took it and said: I have acquired it for myself, he has acquired it by means of lifting it, even though he did not see it first. But if, after giving it to the one riding the animal, he said: I acquired it for myself at the outset, he has said nothing and the rider keeps the item.

משנה בבא מציעא, א:ג

הָיָה רוֹכֵב עַל גַּבֵּי בְהֵמָה וְרָאָה אֶת הַמְּצִיאָה, וְאָמַר לַחֲבֵרוֹ תְּנֶהָ לִי, נְטָלָהּ וְאָמַר אֲנִי זָכִיתִי בָהּ, זַכָה בָהּ. אִם מִשֶּׁנְּתָנָהּ לוֹ אָמַר אֲנִי זָכִיתִי בָהּ תְּחִלָּה, לֹא אָמַר כְּלוּם:

If one saw a found item and fell upon it, intending to thereby acquire it, but did not employ one of the formal modes of acquisition, and then another came and seized it, the one who seized it acquired it because he employed one of the formal modes of acquisition. If one saw people running after a found ownerless animal, e.g., after a deer crippled by a broken leg, or after young pigeons that have not yet learned to fly, which can be caught easily, and he said: My field has effected acquisition of this animal for me, it has effected acquisition of it for him. If the deer were running in its usual manner, or the young pigeons were flying, and he said: My field has effected acquisition of this animal for me, he has said nothing, as one's courtyard cannot effect acquisition of an item that does not remain there on its own.

משנה בבא מציעא, א:ד

רָאָה אֶת הַמְּצִיאָה וְנָפַל עָלֶיהָ, וּבָא אַחֵר וְהֶחֲזִיק בָּהּ, זֶה שֶׁהֶחֱזִיק בָּהּ זָכָה בָהּ. רָאָה אוֹתָן רָצִין אַחַר מְצִיאָה, אַחַר צְבִי שָׁבוּר, אַחַר גּוֹזָלוֹת שֶׁלֹּא פָּרְחוּ, וְאָמַר זַכְתָה לִי שָׂדִי, זַכְתָה לֹו שָׁדִי, זַכְתָה לֹו. הָיָה צְבִי רָץ כְּדַרְכּוֹ, אוֹ שֶׁהָיוּ גוֹזַלוֹת מַפְרִיחִין, וְאָמַר זַכְתָה לִי שָׂדִי, לֹא אָמַר כְּלוּם: מַפְרִיחִין, וְאָמַר זַכְתָה לִי שָׂדִי, לֹא אָמַר כְּלוּם:

With regard to the found item of one's minor son or daughter, i.e., an ownerless item that they found; the found item of his Canaanite slave or maidservant; and the found item of his wife, they are his. By contrast, with regard to the found item of one's adult son or daughter; the found item of his Hebrew slave or maidservant; and the found item of his ex-wife, whom he divorced, even if he has not yet given her payment of the marriage contract that he owes her, they are theirs.

משנה בבא מציעא, א:ה

מְצִיאַת בְּנוֹ וּבִתּוֹ הַקְּטַנִּים, מְצִיאַת עַבְדּוֹ וְשִׁפְּחָתוֹ הַכְּנַעֲנִים, מְצִיאַת אִשְׁתּוֹ, הֲרֵי אֵלּוּ שֶׁלּוֹ. מְצִיאַת בְּנוֹ וּבִתּוֹ הַגְּדוֹלִים, מְצִיאַת עַבְדּוֹ וְשִׁפְחָתוֹ הָעִבְרִים, מְצִיאַת אִשְׁתּוֹ שֶׁגַּרְשָׁהּ, אַף עַל פִּי שֶׁלֹּא נָתַן כְּתֻבָּתָהּ, הֲרֵי אֵלּוּ שֶׁלְּהֶן:

With regard to one who **found promissory notes**, **if they** include a property guarantee for the loan he may not return them to the creditor, as, if he were to return them, the court would then use them to collect repayment of the debts from land that belonged to the debtor at the time of the loan, even if that land was subsequently sold to others. If **they do not** include a property guarantee, he returns them to the creditor, as in this case the court will not use them to collect **repayment** of the debt from purchasers of the debtor's land. This is the statement of Rabbi Meir. And the Rabbis say: In both this case and that case he should not return the promissory notes to the creditor, as, if he were to return them, the court would in any event use them to collect **repayment** of the loan from purchasers of the debtor's land.

משנה בבא מציעא, א:ו

מָצָא שְׁטָרֵי חוֹב, אָם יֵשׁ בָּהֶן אַחֲרָיוּת נְכָסִים, לֹא יַחֲזִיר, שֶׁבֵּית דִּין נִפְּרָעִין מֵהֶן, אֵין בָּהֶן אַחֲרָיוּת נְכָסִים, יַחֲזִיר, שֶׁאֵין בֵּית דִּין נִפְּרָעִין מֵהֶן, דְּבְרֵי רַבִּי מֵאִיר. וַחֲכָמִים אוֹמְרִים, בֵּין כָּךְ וּבֵין כָּךְ לֹא יַחֲזִיר, מִפְּנֵי שֶׁבֵּית דִּין נִפְּרָעִין מֵהֶן:

If one found bills of divorce, or bills of manumission of slaves, or wills, or deeds of a gift, or receipts, he may not return these items to the one who is presumed to have lost them, as I say it is possible that they were written and then the writer reconsidered about them and decided not to deliver them.

משנה בבא מציעא, א:ז

מָצָא גִּטֵּי נָשִׁים, וְשָׁחְרוּרֵי עֲבָדִים, דְּיָתֵיקֵי, מַתָּנָה וְשׁוֹבְרִים, הֲרֵי זֶה לֹא יַחֲזִיר, שֶׁאֲנִי אוֹמֵר כְּתוּבִים הָיוּ וְנִמְלַךְ עֲלֵיהֶם שֵׁלֹּא לְתְּנָם:

If one **found documents of appraisal** of a debtor's property for the purpose of debt collection; or documents concerning food, which were drawn up when one accepted upon himself to provide sustenance for another; documents of halitza; or documents of refusal of a girl upon reaching majority to remain married to the man to whom her mother or brothers married her as a minor after the death of her father; or documents of beirurin, a concept that will be explained in the Gemara; or any court enactment, e.g., a promissory note that has been authenticated by the court, in all of these cases, the finder must return the document to its presumed owner. If one found documents in a hafisa or in a deluskema, both of them types of containers, or if he found a roll of documents or a bundle of documents, he must return them. And how many documents are considered to be a bundle of documents? It is three that are tied together. Rabban Shimon ben Gamliel says: If the documents make reference to loans of one person who borrowed money from three people, the finder must return them to the debtor, as they were presumably in his possession before being lost. If the documents make reference to loans of three people who borrowed money from one person, he must return them to the creditor, as they were presumably in his possession before being lost. If one found a document among his documents that were given to him by other people as a trustee, and he does **not know what its nature is,** i.e., he does not remember who gave it to him or whether the debt mentioned in it has been paid, the document is placed aside until Elijah the prophet comes and clarifies the issue through his prophecy. If there are cancellations of contracts [simponot] among them, he should do what is stated in the simponot.

משנה בבא מציעא, א:ח

מָצָא אִגְּרוֹת שׁוּם וְאִגְּרוֹת מָזוֹן, שְׁטָרֵי חֲלִיצָה וּמֵאוּנִין, וּשְׁטָרֵי בֵרוּרִין, וְכָל מַעֲשֵׂה בֵית דִּין, וּמֵאוּנִין, וּשְׁטָרִי בֵרוּרִין, וְכָל מַעֲשֵׂה בֵית דִּין, הֲרֵי זֶה יַחֲזִיר. מָצָא בַחֲפִיסָה אוֹ בִדְלֵסְקְמָא, תַּכְרִיךְ שֶׁל שְׁטָרוֹת, אוֹ אֲגֻדָּה שֶׁל שְׁטָרוֹת, שְׁלשָׁה זֶה יַחֲזִיר. וְכַמָּה אֲגֻדָּה שֶׁל שְׁטָרוֹת, שְׁלשָׁה קַשְׁלשָׁה לְשָׁרוֹת, שְׁלשָׁה הַלּוִין קְשׁוּרִין זֶה בָזֶה. רַבָּן שִׁמְעוֹן בֶּן גַּמְלִיאֵל אוֹמֵר, אֶחָד הַלּוֶה מִשְּׁלשָׁה, יַחֲזִיר לַלּוֶה, שְׁלשָׁה הַלּוִין מֵאָח דְּיַחְזִיר לַמַּלְוֶה. מָצָא שְׁטָר בֵּין שְׁטָרוֹתִיו מֵגְּא הַלּוֹין שְׁטָרוֹתִיו מֵה טִּיבוֹ, יְהֵא מֻנָּח עַד שֶׁיָבֹא וְאֵיבֹּא אֵלְיָהוּ. אַם יִשׁ עִמָּהֶן סְמְפּוֹנוֹת, יַעֲשֶׂה מַה שַׁרָּבּא שֵׁבָּסְמְפּוֹנוֹת, יַעֲשֶׂה מַה שַׁבּסְמְפּוֹנוֹת.

If **two** people came to court **holding a garment**, and **this** one, the first litigant, **says: I found it, and that** one, the second litigant, **says: I found it**;

this one says: All of it is mine, and that one says: All of it is mine; how does the court adjudicate this case?

This one takes an oath that he does not have ownership of less than half of it, and that one takes an oath that he does not have ownership of less than half of it, and they divide it.

If this one says: All of it is mine, and that one says: Half of it is mine, since they both agree that half of the cloak belongs to one of them, the conflict between them is only about the other half.

Therefore, the one who says: All of it is mine, takes an oath that he does not have ownership of less than three parts, i.e., three-fourths, of it, and the one who says: Half of it is mine, takes an oath that he does not have ownership of less than one-quarter of it.

This one takes three parts, and that one takes one-quarter.

משנה בבא מציעא, א:א

שְׁנַיִם אוֹחֲזִין בְּטַלִּית, זֶה אוֹמֵר אֲנִי מְצָאתִיהָ וְזֶה אוֹמֵר אֲנִי מְצָאתִיהָ, זֶה אוֹמֵר כֻּלָּהּ שֶׁלִּי וְזֶה אוֹמֵר כֻּלָּהּ שֶׁלִּי, זֶה יִשָּׁבַע שָׁאֵין לוֹ בָהּ פָּחוֹת מֵחֶצְיָהּ, וְזֶה יִשְּׁבַע שָׁאֵין לוֹ בָהּ פָּחוֹת מֵחֶצְיָהּ, וְיַחֵלֹקוּ.

זֶה אוֹמֵר כֻּלָּהּ שֶׁלִּי וְזֶה אוֹמֵר חֶצְיָהּ שֶׁלִּי, הָאוֹמֵר כֻּלָּהּ שֶׁלִּי, יִשָּׁבַע שֶׁאֵין לוֹ בָהּ פָּחוֹת מִשְׁלשָׁה חֲלָקִים, וְהָאוֹמֵר חֶצְיָהּ שֶׁלִּי, יִשָּׁבַע שָׁאֵין לוֹ בָהּ פָּחוֹת מֵרְבִיעַ. זֵה נוֹטֵל שָׁלשָׁה חֵלָקִים, וְזֵה נוֹטֵל רְבִיעַ:

משנה בבא מציעא, א:א

שְׁנַיִם אוֹחֲזִין בְּטַלִּית, זֶה אוֹמֵר אֲנִי מְצָאתִיהָ וְזֶה אוֹמֵר אֲנִי מְצָאתִיהָ, זֶה אוֹמֵר כֻּלָּהּ שֶׁלִּי וְזֶה אוֹמֵר כֻּלָּהּ שֶׁלִּי, זֶה יִשָּׁבַע שָׁאֵין לוֹ בָהּ פָּחוֹת מֵחֶצְיָהּ, וְזֶה יִשָּׁבַע שָׁאֵין לוֹ בָהּ פָּחוֹת מֵחֶצְיָהּ, וְיַחֲלֹקוּ.

זֶה אוֹמֵר כֵּלָהּ שֶׁלִּי וְזֶה אוֹמֵר חֶצְיָהּ שֶׁלִּי, הָאוֹמֵר כֵּלָּהּ שֶׁלִּי, יִשָּׁבַע שֶׁאֵין לוֹ בָהּ פָּחוֹת מִשְּׁלשָׁה חֲלָקִים, וְהָאוֹמֵר חֶצְיָהּ שֶׁלִּי, יִשָּׁבַע שָׁאֵין לוֹ בָהּ פָּחוֹת מֵרְבִיעַ. זֵה נוֹטֵל שָׁלשָׁה חֵלַקִים, וְזֵה נוֹטֵל רְבִיעַ:

תוספתא בבא מציעא א:א

שנים אוחזין בטלית זה נוטל עד מקום שתפוס וזה נוטל עד מקום שתפוס

במה דברים אמורים? בזמן שהיו שניהם תופסין בה אבל אם היתה בידו של אחד מהן המוציא מחבירו עליו הראיה

זה אומר כולה שלי וזה אומר שליש שלי האומר כולה שלי ישבע שאין לו בה פחות מה' חלקים והאומר שליש שלי ישבע שאין לו בה פחות משתות כללו של דבר: אין נשבע אלא על חצי טוענו בלבד.

If one said to two people: I robbed one of you of one hundred dinars, but I do not know from which of you I took the money, or if one said to two people: The father of one of you deposited one hundred dinars with me, but I do not know the father of which of you he is, then he gives one hundred dinars to this person and one hundred dinars to that person. This is because there is no way to determine which of them is entitled to the money, and he admitted his obligation at his own initiative.

In the case of **two** people **who deposited** money **with one** person, and this one deposited one hundred dinars and that one deposited two **hundred** dinars, and when they come to collect their deposit, **this** one says: My deposit was two hundred dinars, and that one says: My deposit was two hundred dinars, the bailee gives one hundred dinars to this one and one hundred dinars to that one. And the rest of the money, i.e., the contested one hundred dinars, will be placed in a safe place until Elijah comes and prophetically determines the truth. Rabbi Yosei said: If so, what did the swindler lose? He lost nothing by claiming the one hundred dinars that belongs to another, and he has no incentive to admit the truth. Rather, the entire deposit will be placed in a safe place until Elijah comes. As his fraud will cause him to lose even the one hundred dinars that he deposited, perhaps he will be discouraged from making a fraudulent claim.

משנה בבא מציעא, ג:ג

אָמַר לִשְׁנַיִם, גָּזַלְתִּי לְאֶחָד מִכֶּם מָנֶה, וְאֵינִי יוֹדֵע אֵיזֶה מִכֶּם, אוֹ, אָבִיו שֶׁל אֶחָד מִכֶּם הִפְּקִיד לִי מְנֶה, וְאֵינִי יוֹדֵעַ אֵיזֶה הוּא, נוֹתֵן לָזֶה מָנֶה וְלָזֶה מָנֶה שֶׁהוֹדָה מִפִּי עַצְמוֹ:

שְׁנַיִם שֶׁהִפְּקִידוּ אֵצֶל אֶחָד, זֶה מְנֶה וְזֶה מָאתַיִם, זֶה אוֹמֵר שֶׁלִּי מָאתָיִם וְזֶה אוֹמֵר שֶׁלִּי מָאתָיִם, נוֹתֵן לָזֶה מָנֶה וְלָזֶה מָנֶה, וְהַשְּׁאָר יְהֵא מֻנְּח עַד שֶׁיָבֹא אֵלְיָהוּ. אָמַר רַבִּי יוֹסֵי, אִם כֵּן מַה הִפְּסִיד הָרַמַּאי. אֶלָּא הַכֹּל יְהֵא מֻנָּח עַד שֶׁיָבֹא אֵלִיָּהוּ: