

מי שהוא פֿרנס־חדש או מנהיג, שקורין "רוגיר"

The Fair Community Leader

THE TEACHING

A community leader (פֿרנס־חדש, מנהיג; in the Rebbe's land they called him the "rogirer") who leads honestly and uprightly, and looks carefully to lay the burden on each person as is right for him, more on one and less on another, cancels the four evil traits (אַרבע מדות רעות): idolatry, forbidden relations, bloodshed and lashon hara.

The secret is in vows (נדרים): weighing each person fairly brings the release of vows (התרת נדרים), and that saves us from those four.

MAIN POINTS

- A vow must be paid at once; one who delays his vow brings on these four traits. The Midrash learns it from Yaakov, who delayed his vow.
- Idolatry: "הִסִּירוּ אֶת אֱלֹהֵי הַנֹּכַח" (בראשית לה:ב), "remove the foreign gods." Forbidden relations: "וַיֵּצֵא דִינָה" (בראשית לד:א), "and Dinah went out." Bloodshed: at Shechem. Lashon hara: "וַיִּשְׁמַע אֶת דְּבָרֵי בְנֵי לָבָן" (בראשית לא:א), "he heard the words of Lavan's sons."
- The Midrash also says that Moshe saw the burdens of Israel: "וַיֵּרָא בְּסִבְלָתָם" (שמות ב:יא), "he saw their burdens." Men's work was put on women, and the opposite; Moshe turned it around and gave each one the work that suited him.
- Hashem told Moshe that through this he would merit to release vows, of which it also says "בֵּין אִישׁ לְאִשְׁתּוֹ" (במדבר ל"ז), "between a man and his wife."
- So looking to weigh each person rightly brings the release of vows, and that saves us from the four evil traits.

A PRACTICAL TAKEAWAY · OUR OWN REFLECTION

Anyone who hands out work, in a family, a shul or an office, is doing the work of Moshe. Look at each person, and give them what suits them. And keep your promises quickly.

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