

היום תשעה ושלשים יום, שהם
חמשה שבועות וארבעה ימים לעמר

The Dee Pirkei Avot Project

Dedicated
to those who have tragically been murdered,
for the safe return of those missing or held hostage,
for the refuah of those injured,
the continued strength and bravery of our chyalim in the IDF
and safety of all those in our homeland of Israel.

**רבי ישמעאל בנו אומר, החושך עצמו מן הדין, פורק ממנו איבה
וגזל ושבועת שוא. והגס לבו בהוראה, שוטה רשע וגס רוח:**
Rabbi Yishmael, his son, says: One who withholds himself from judging
- removes from himself enmity, theft, and the false oath. One who is
nonchalant about giving legal decisions is an imbecile, wicked, and
arrogant in spirit

The dilemma of 'whether to get involved or not' is one which is relevant to many areas of life. In our Mishna R' Yishmael teaches that if one "holds back" and does not get involved in judging disputes, then one removes the risk of incurring the wrath of the party that loses (because they will generally feel anger towards the judge that found against them). It also means that there is no risk of allowing a potentially wrongful transfer of funds (which would happen if you declared the wrong person to be right, meaning that any payments made to them are like theft). Finally, it means that you're not at risk of administering a false oath (for example, by a party determined to lie) (Bartenura). These all sound like excellent reasons not to get involved.

But the Mishna in Sanhedrin (11:5) teaches that a prophet who 'withholds a prophecy' is, in the view of the Heavenly Court, marked as being deserving of the death penalty. This suggests that it is not acceptable to avoid sharing one's wisdom, insight and expertise with others. (see also Rambam, Yesodei HaTorah; 9:2-3)

In fact, the latter part of the Mishna provides us with a way to understand this apparent conflict. 'One who is nonchalant about rendering a ruling is regarded as foolish, wicked and arrogant' – both the Rambam (Pirush HaMishanyot) and Bartenura understand 'nonchalance' as meaning one who gives a decision without careful consideration and/or due reverence. If someone cannot focus properly and show enough respect, they should not take on a judicial role, as R' Yishmael suggests in the opening section of the Mishna. However, if someone wishes to ensure that they do not transgress the prohibition on 'withholding a prophecy' then they should 'work' on themselves to ensure they are worthy of making (Halachic) decisions. By being properly prepared and attuned, they will receive Divine help to avoid making wrong or objectionable decisions.

Discussion Questions:

How might a person who is hesitant about rendering Halachic rulings, despite being knowledgeable and qualified to do so, ensure that they are able to do so without falling prey to being considered 'foolish, wicked and arrogant'?

When might it be acceptable to avoid 'getting involved' and when might there be an obligation to do so?

How much of a part do spiritual, religious and ethical worthiness play in the role of teaching and ruling on Halacha?

Idea by Rabbi Mordechai Ginsbury

לעילוי נשמת:

לאה בת רפאל הכהן וציפורה

מאיה אסתר בת הרב אריה מרדכי ולאה

רינה מרים בת הרב אריה מרדכי ולאה



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מאיה אסתר בת הרב אריה מרדכי ולאה
רינה מרים בת הרב אריה מרדכי ולאה



Missing or Held Hostage:

Itai ben Michal Zipporah
Rivka Levy
סביון חן בת רבקה
רינת זגדון
אביה בת יפעת
Sharona shmunis harel
Itai zamir
Ben Menashe Ben Dikla
יובל בויום
ענר אליקים בן שירה
אליסף בן פורת , גבריאל בראל
Gal Navon (Gal Ben Naama)
עודד בן בלהה , יוכבד בת לאה
אבינתן בן דיצה תרצה
דניאל שמעון בן שרון
Ben Shimoni
הירש בן שרה
אבינתן בן דיצה תרצה
מיכאל בן רחל
עילי עזר בן אפרת
עידן אלכסנדר בן יעל
נריה בן שרון
מוריה בת סנדרה
יהונתן בן לימור
דביר חיים בן רוית
הדר בת גליה
אליהו בן בת שבע
בועז מנשה בן עטרה
אלקנה בוחבוט בן רוחמה
שגיא בן נעמית
דור בן דורית
תומר שגב
אברהם בן רפאל
אורי בן סיגלית
אוריאל ביבי בן יעל ג'וליה
אושר בן רחל
איתמר בן מיכל
רינת הודיה בת מיכולה
הירש גולדברג פולין
Adi Margalit bat Elka Chana
עומר מקסים בן אורנה אסתר ורון
doreen attias bat tali
אופיר אנגל
נעמה בת איילת
איתי בן חגית
תמיר בן חרות
שגיא בן נעמית
Matan ben Anat

Ada bat Esther
Adi bat Shoshan
Adina bat Eida
Agam Ben Chen
Alma bat Yonat
Amelia bat Daniella
Avigail bat Smadar
Aviva bat Golit
Chana bat Jesse
Chana bat Rivka
Chen bat Giora
Clara bat Tanya
Dafna bat Maayan
Danielle bat Rivka
Ditza bat Leah Heiman
Doron Bat Efrat
Eitan ben Batsheva
Ella bat Maayan
Elma bat Leah
Emma bat Sharon
Emily bat Narkis
Erez Ben Hadas
Gal Ben Chen
Gavriela bat Tanya
Hagar Brodetz
Hila bat Raaya
Karina bat Eera
Keren bat Rut
Margalit bat Lita
Maya bat Gavriella
Maya bat Mirit Regev
Meirav bat Rachel
Mika bat Karina
Naveh ben Adi
Noam bat Sharone
Noam ben Yonat
Noga bat Shiri
Ofelia bat Rosinta
Ofry bat Hagar
Ohad Ben Keren
Or ben Renana
Oria ben Hagar
Rimon bat Avital
Roni ben Marina
Ruth bat Chedva
Sahar bat Hadas
Sharon bat Rivka
Sharon bat Ruti
Shiri bat Tamar
Shoshan bat Rina
Tal Ben Chen
Tamar Metzger
Yaffa bat Tova
Yagil ben Renana
Yahel Neri bat Adi
Yuli bat Sharon
Yuval ben Karina
Yuval Ben Hagar

L'ilui Nishmat:

אריאל בן אחיה ועידית אליהו הי"ד
רועי וייזר
רועי חיים בן נעמי וישראל
תומר בן מיכל
Yishai ben Yitzchak
Avraham Ben Yaffa
חנן (חנניה) בן יולנדה
יונתן צור בן רבקה
Nathanel Abraham Shalom ben Nahoum Maimon
ישי בן ענבל
רועי חיים בן ישראל מאיר ונעמי
אור מלכה
Ro'ee Ben yaron
אריה בן דבורה
Sgt. Roey Chaim Ben Yisrael Meir
מתן בן מירי וארז
רועי חיים בן נעמי וימי
אריאל בן אחיה ועידית
יוסף מרדכי בן דינה
אלחנן קלמנזון
אריאל בן עידית ואחיה
דביר חיים בן ישראל עמיחי
יוסף מלאכי בן דינה ודוד
דביר חיים בן ישראל עמיחי
יהונתן אהרון שטינברג
Paul Kessler
Sharona shumnit harel
אלחנן אריאל בן יהודה הי"ד
Elisheva Rose Ida Lubin
לורן בת חוה
אוריה בן ריטה
Daniel Shimon ben Doron
Zecharia Pesach ben Aharon Baruch

Refuah:

יונתן צבי בן שרון
מיחי שמעון בן בתיה
איתי בן לוי
מיכאל בן אסתר
יאיר בן דרורה
נתנאל בן חיה אסתר
עמיחי שמעון בן בתיה
יאיר יונה בן דרורה ציפורה מלכה
Kinneret D
Hadar bat Galiya
ענר שפירא
Natalie
בת יהודית and יהודית בת תמר
נועה בת עדי מרציאנו
נבו בן מירב
דביר בן אורית
יונה בצלאל בן חוה שושנה
Shlomo Yair Chaim Ben Gittle Sara
רז בן דליה
Yonatan tzvi Ben Sharon
Nadav Ephraim Ben Shulamit Leah
יאיר בן דרורה

These lists are not comprehensive and only include names sent by people connected to this project. We pray for the welfare of those released from captivity (who may be in the hostage list). May our learning be in the zechut of ALL those in need in Israel.