**Law and Torah: Student Court**

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| **Broken Commandment**  **(mitzvah)** | **Scenario** | **Strengths of adhering to sacred texts** | **Short comings of adhering to sacred texts** | **Sacred Text to support statements** |
|  | *A woman has committed adultery with a guy who is enlisting in Army in 3 months. She is seeking uncontested divorce due to irreconcilable differences and wants nothing from soon to be EX husband. She wants only to take her clothes and leave. Stating her EX husband can have the house. Financially, only thing shared is house, and she does not want it.* |  |  |  |
|  | *Located on the fashionable Dizengoff Street, the galley is displaying dozens of works by the artist, all called Gemara and all made  - in part - from the pages of an old Talmud volume rolled into glass tubes inserted or glued into the canvas. Each sells for about $1600.  The Ashkenazi Chief Rabbi of Israel Yona Metzger called the art show and the art itself "a catastrophe" and expressed the hope that whoever purchased these paintings would do so to return the pages of the Talmud to their rightful place.  "This [‘art’ show] shows contempt for holy writings that [by Jewish law] must be buried in a genizah. I hope God-fearing people will not buy these displays for art, but to bring them to genizah facilities for burial that they deserve. It is inconceivable that a thing like this [art show] could occur in the Land of Israel,” Metzger said.  The artworks incorporating Talmud pages are displayed pieces are displayed alongside standard works of art, some of which are deemed immodest by the rabbis (please see the photo posted below), as well, further provoking them.* |  |  |  |
|  | *Marylin has just begun a new job working at Event Cinemas in the ticket booth. Her boss has called her in to take a last minute Friday night shift. Worried that she may lose her new job Marylin takes the shift.* |  |  |  |
|  | *According to new research from France. We see it in children at play, the toy the other child is enjoying is more desirable. We do it with fashion items, accessories, cars, "keeping up with the Joneses", where the value assigned to an object increases when it is desired by others.  Now a team from INSERM in Paris has shown that this tendency is not just psychological, but due to specific brain mechanisms that are essential for what has long been known as "mimetic desire", a characteristic first described by French philosopher René Girard in the 1960s when he began to write about desires and proposed that we borrow our desires from others, and this explains much of human behavior.  Co-author Mathias Pessiglione and colleagues write about their study of how they unravelled mimetic desires in the brain in the 23 May online issue of The Journal of Neuroscience.  The idea of mimetic desire is that we value objects not only in terms of their intrinsic qualities, such as how useful they are, what they do, and what they look like, but also in terms of how much they are desired by others. It also suggests mimetic desire is contagious, and spreads quickly to others, such that the desirability of an object increases the more people are interested in it.* |  |  |  |
| **Theft** | *Phishing is a scam — via email — to obtain personal information under the false pretense of being an established legitimate enterprise. The*[*Los Angeles Times*](http://www.latimes.com/business/la-fi-phishing-attacks-20130726,0,2808913.story) *reports recent phishing attacks targeted thousands of people with emails from "Wallmart" and American Airlines. A good phishing attack can be hard to detect, so do not open emails or click on links if you have not made a recent purchase from the company. The link could lure you to provide your personal information or download software that allows a hacker full access to your personal computer.* |  |  |  |
| **Murder** | *This story takes place in a village. It involves an anonymous poison-pen letter writer, who writes hurtful, venomous things to the other inhabitants of the village. It spreads like a plague, and just about everyone gets something, and it is slowly tearing the community apart, with everyone too frightened to do anything about it (and too frightened to admit to being frightened). And then, things suddenly get deadly, when one of the villagers is found dead, having apparently committed suicide after receiving an anonymous letter.* |  |  |  |

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| **Search items: Exodus, Leviticus, Deuteronomy, Proverbs, Numbers, Midrash, Talmud** |

**Court Case Debate**

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| **For** | **Against** |
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