

Parshas Shemos

Shmuz by Rabbi Shimon Max
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Moshe went out to the enslaved Jews and saw their burdens and he saw a *Mitzri* man beating a Jew. *Rashi* comments that he was beating him very hard, and explains the background story that the Jew was the husband of *Shlomis bas Divri*. The Egyptian taskmaster had gone into the Jew's house the previous night and lived with his wife, and when he saw that the Jew knew about it, he started beating him mercilessly.

The *Gur Aryeh* explains how *Rashi* knew this was the background story. If the taskmaster had just been beating him because he wasn't working hard enough, then it wouldn't fit into the pasuk of "and he (*Moshe*) saw them in their hard work," because if that was the scenario then the Jew had "brought the beating on himself." It must be that it was an extreme story of cruelty and that's why *Rashi* brought the story he brought.

But why would the Jew not being a good enough slave be a reason why *Moshe* wouldn't help him? He's a Jew being beaten up! How is not working considered - "He brought it on himself?" How does he, in a certain sense, "deserve" to be beaten like this?!

We see from here that we have to act rationally in every situation in life. In a normal situation, no one can force you to work or beat you for refusing. But if you're in *Mitzrayim*, when your whole nation is being enslaved, you don't have the right to be lazy and complain and not work, and if you're punished, in a certain sense you brought it on yourself!

We must try to fit ourselves into the situation that we are in. If we have things we need to do, whether from *Hashem*, your parents, your boss etc., even if we're not in the mood to do them, we've got to do them anyway! We have to do our best to see that if Hashem puts us in that situation and if we are lax in our obligations and harm befalls us, we brought the harm upon ourselves!