



## **Parshas Kedoshim**

**Shmuz by Rabbi Shimon Max  
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The Pasuk says (19, 16) “Do not stand by your brother’s blood, I am Hashem.” Rashi explains that if you see a person drowning in the river or see an animal chasing a person, you shouldn’t stand by, because “I am Hashem”, and therefore trustworthy to pay reward and trustworthy to hold back reward.

The Kitzur Mizrahi explains that Rashi was bothered by why it says “I am Hashem” by this Mitzva specifically. The Kitzur explains that Rashi assumes that the case must be talking about where there is some part of a sin by the person getting involved! For example, if a woman is drowning in the river, and you need to save her, or if you need to take the life of someone to save someone he’s chasing, even in those cases Hashem is still going to reward you for your good intentions! And so too the opposite, if you don’t save them, I am trustworthy to withhold reward!

One could ask, why would someone think they get any less reward because there should be an avaira involved? The bottom line is that HaShem commanded us to perform this mitzva regardless,?

What we see from here that there should be a natural hesitation to do an action that in a vacuum would be a tremendous avaira. Therefore, there needs to be the promise of “I am Hashem”, who rewards thoughts, to act as a defense for this hesitation, so that we perform the necessary act with all of our energy and ability.

The Kitzur adds another חידוש also that the pasuk of אַנִּי ה' is also giving us a us another תחבולה that at the moment of hesitation we need to tell ourselves to ignore and not the “messy” appearance, and focus in on the pure intentions that drove us to do the right thing.

In life, we may find ourselves doing the right thing, but it doesn’t look so pretty on the outside. We may feel bad, or even stop doing it entirely. Anyone in such a situation should go over this message, and look towards the fact that they are doing mitzvos and the will of Hashem, so they continue to do so with the same devotion and excitement.