In this portion, the Torah tells us of the case of a man who is very poor, and cannot support his family. He is allowed to ‘sell’ his daughter, who is under the age of maturity, to a Jewish master, with the intent that the master or his son will marry her, as it is written “He should have designated her as a wife for himself...” (Exodus 21:8)

We find in this verse the word “lo” which is a ‘kri-and-a-ksiv.’ A “kri-and-a-ksiv” is a word that is pronounced (kri) one way, but written (ksiv) in the Torah scroll a different way.

These two ways of reading the word also imply different shades of meaning.

The kri is spelled Lamed-Vav (לַחַ), and means that “He should have designated her as a wife....” The ksiv however is spelled Lamed Alef (לַא), meaning “He did not designate her as a wife....”

What deeper meaning can we derive from this difference?