

























## **Elections 2012 -A Jewish Perspective**

*7e. For poverty is rampant and increases day by day on account of people who come here to dwell from other congregations and have no support here.*

*Register of the Vaad Arba Ha'aratsot, 333-334*

*7f. If refugees come to the settlement fleeing fear and danger, the residents of the settlement may not stop them from attaching themselves and making enough money to keep themselves alive and caring for their households until the fury abates.*

*Mordechai, Baba Batra, Part 3, Remez 147*

***Question for class:** Which of these arguments for a right to restrict immigration would be most applicable in today's political debate, here or in Israel?*

## **Section IV The Compact: Mutual Expectations**

*8. One Torah and one law shall there be for you and the stranger who comes to live with you.*

*Numbers 15:16*

*9a. Also, seek the peace and prosperity of the city to*

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*which I have carried you into exile. Pray to G-d for it, because if it prospers, you too will prosper.*

*Jeremiah 29:7*

**9b.** Rabbi Channanya would say: Pray for the peace of the kingdom, for were it not for fear of its laws, for they are hard on us, one man would swallow the other alive (*Avot 3*). *This is the idea that one should pray for the peace of the world and to be pained by others' pain. Such is the way of the righteous, as David (peace be upon him) said: "When they were ill, I wore sackcloth; I afflicted my soul with fasting (Psalms 35:13)." One should not plead and intercede for one's own needs only, but should rather pray for all mankind, that all should be in peace. In the tranquility of the kingdom, there is peace for the whole world.*

*Commentary of Rabbeinu Yona on Avot*

**9c.** *Since the prophet commanded us to pray to G-d for the place to which we were exiled, how could we ordain something the opposite of that, G-d forbid, thereby transgressing the prophet's words? To the contrary: the Sages warned us to accept the sovereignty and the rule of the nations. After G-d decreed that we should be under their authority, it is proper for us to accept their rule and not to act as if the decree were void.*

*Maharal Prague, Be'er Hagola 7:6*

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*9d. The ger who lives with you should be considered by you as a native among you and you should love him as you love yourself, for you were gerim in the land of Egypt; I am your G-d.*

*Leviticus 19:34*

*9e. This is mentioned just after the verses that instructed us to honor the elderly. The reason for this is that just as I cautioned you to honor the elderly of Israel since they have no strength of their own, so do I caution you about the ger, for your strength is greater than his... for he is in your land, under your control.*

*You shall love him...I am your G-d -- I am the one G-d who created you both.*

*Commentary of Ibn Ezra*

### ***Class Question:***

*How might this concept apply in today's debate over illegal immigration? Would this requirement to accept and abide by the laws help clarify and define what kind of immigrant a country would and should accept?*

*In the light of the above, what should our attitude be towards those who do not follow the law of the land – the “illegal*

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*immigrants”? Should they be entitled to permanent residence? Should they be entitled to free schooling? Medicare? Food stamps? Section 8 housing?*

### **Section V**

#### **Expectations Not Met: Illegal Immigration**

*10. When G-d saw that the children of Noach had accepted the seven commandments but then had not fulfilled them, He released them from their obligation.*

*But then they would have gained! If so, we would find that a sinner is rewarded for his sin!*

*Mar the son of Ravina said: It means that even if they observe these commandments, they get no reward.*

Baba Kama 38a

**Questions** – How might the use of the principle *ein choteh niskar* apply to the modern debates over immigration? Would it require that an illegal immigrant leave the country and get to the back of the line before being considered?

Would some other method establish him/her as someone now truly committed to accepting the community’s sovereign laws?

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### **Conclusions**

- A. *Gain control of borders.*
- B. *Hold employers and enablers responsible.-*
- C. *Guest-worker programs.*
- D. *Provide a path for college-age youth who know no other home.*