

The Four Guardians

Parsha Mishpatim

Exodus 22:6,9-10

כִּי יִתֵּן אִישׁ אֶל רֵעֵהוּ חֲמוֹר אוֹ שׂוֹר אוֹ יָשָׁה וְכָל בְּהֵמָה לְשֹׁמֵר וּמֵת אוֹ נִשְׁבֵּר אוֹ נִשְׁבָּה אֵין רֹאֵה

כִּי יִתֵּן אִישׁ אֶל רֵעֵהוּ כֶסֶף אוֹ כְּלִים לְשֹׁמֵר וְגַבַּב מִבֵּית הָאִישׁ אִם יִמָּצָא הַגָּבַב יִשְׁלַם שְׁנַיִם
שְׁבַעֲת הַתְּהִיָּה בֵּין שְׁנֵיהֶם אִם לֹא שָׁלַח יָדוֹ בְּמִלְאֲכַת רֵעֵהוּ וְלָקַח בְּעֵלְיוֹ וְלֹא יִשְׁלַם

If a man gives his neighbor money or articles for safekeeping, and it is stolen from the man's house, if the thief is found, he shall pay twofold.

If a man gives his neighbor a donkey, a bull, a lamb, or any animal for safekeeping, and it dies, breaks a limb, or is captured, and no one sees [it], the oath of the Lord shall be between the two of them provided that he did not lay his hand upon his neighbor's property, and its owner shall accept [it], and he shall not pay.

Maimonides Positive Commandment #242

The 242nd *mitzvah* is that we are commanded regarding the law of an unpaid watchman.

The source of this commandment is G-d's statement (exalted be He), "If one person gives another money or articles to watch...." The details of this *mitzvah* are explained in the 9th chapter of tractate *Bava Kama*, the 3rd chapter of *Bava Metziah* and the 8th chapter of *Shavuos*.

Maimonides Positive Commandment #243

The 243rd *mitzvah* is that we are commanded regarding a paid watchman and a renter, since both are governed by the same law, as our Sages explained, regarding the three laws governing the four types of watchmen.

The source of this commandment is G-d's statement (exalted be He), "If one person gives another a donkey, an ox, a sheep [or any other animal to watch...]"

The details of this *mitzvah* are explained in the 6th and 9th chapters of tractate *Bava Kama*, the 3rd and 6th chapters of *Bava Metziah*, and the 8th chapter of *Shavuos*.