

## The Ten Commandments

### Ninth Commandment: Do Not Bear False Testimony

#### Exodus 20:13

לֹא תִעֲנֶה בְרֵעֲךָ עֵד שָׁקֵר

"You shall not bear false witness against your neighbor."

#### Maimonides Negative commandment #285

The 285th prohibition is that we are forbidden from giving false testimony.

The source of this prohibition is G-d's statement, "Do not testify as a false witness (*eid sheker*) against your neighbor." This prohibition is repeated using a different expression, "as a perjurous witness" (*eid shav*).

Scripture dictates the punishment for one who violates this prohibition, "You must do the same to them as they plotted to do to their brother." The *Mechilta* says, "The verse, 'Do not testify as a false witness' is the prohibition regarding false witnesses (*eidim zom'mim*)"

The punishment for violating this prohibition is lashes, as explained in the last chapter of tractate *Makkos*, where the details of this *mitzvah* are explained.