



Jewish education, reimagined.

Beit Rabban Parashah Page

Parashat Ki Teitzei
Deuteronomy 21:10-25:19

פרשת כי תצא
דברים כא:י-כה:יט

Parashat Ki Teitzei contains the most mitzvot of any parashah—over 70! Many of these are rules for community life. Some describe how people should behave towards one another and others describe what to do when people treat each other unfairly. In between rules of good behavior between people, there are also some rules for how we should treat animals. For example (Deut. 25:4):

You shall not muzzle an ox while it is threshing.	לֹא-תִקְחֶם שׂוֹר, בְּדִישׁוֹ.
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Why do you think that an ox should not be muzzled while it grinds the grain that could also be its dinner? In what ways can this command connect to our lives now (especially if you have a pet at home)?

This pasuk, along with others, is a source of a more general mitzvah of **צער בעלי חיים**—being aware of the suffering of animals. Kindness to animals can take many forms; what are different ways of showing kindness to animals?

Abraham Lincoln said, "I care not for a man's religion whose dog and cat are not the better for it." What do you think he meant? Now that you've thought a bit about **צער בעלי חיים**, what things can you do to be kind to animals? How might treating animals kindly also affect how you treat the people in your life?