



לזכות
הת' יהודה שיחי'
לרגל הגיעו לעול מצוות, כ' תמוז
ה'תשפ"ב

נדפס ע"י
הוריו
הרה"ת ר' יוחנן וזוגתו מרת לאה
ומשפחתם שיחיו
גאלדמאן

The Power of the Pruzbul

Hillel Hazaken saw that people were hesitating to lend money to one another and thus transgressing the Torah's admonition: "Take great care lest you will have an unworthy thought in your heart.... 'The seventh year, the year of release, is coming.' And you will look unkindly at your poor brother and will not give him."

Therefore, he instituted the practice of a *pruzbul* so that a debt would not be released and people would continue lending to each other.

Thus, a *pruzbul* is one of the

practices instituted by the Sages as "a fence around the Torah." Originally, there was no need for such a safeguard. However, with the decrease of the ethical level of the Jewish people, the practice was necessary to ensure the observance of Torah law. Nevertheless, once this practice was instituted, it led to an increase in generosity.

The practice of writing a *pruzbul* also brings out another positive dimension. A *pruzbul* is only effective when the borrower owns land.

Nevertheless, our rabbis explain that we can assume that every Jew possesses land. Furthermore, some authorities explain that a *pruzbul* is effective for everyone, for "every Jew possesses a portion of land in Eretz Yisrael." Thus, the practice of *pruzbul* reveals how each Jew has a portion of Eretz Yisrael even during the time of *galus*. **1**

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