



## Purim

**Shmuz by Rabbi Shimon Max**  
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The *Biur Hagra* explains *Haman's* advice to *Achashveirosh* about what to do to *Vashti* as follows - If the regular judges of *Shushan* judge this case, they won't judge fairly. Because based on *Haman's* argument, the judges would want *Vashti* killed so that their wives will be respectful to them. On the other hand, *Achashveirosh* was not so biased as he did not want her killed. So *Haman* therefore told *Achashveirosh* that he may as well judge the case himself, since the judges were even more biased than him. And then the whole kingdom will hear that the king can judge any case by himself, even if it has to do with himself, and everyone will fear his unlimited power!

**But in reality, Hashem was orchestrating the whole thing!** *HaShem* made *Haman* use this argument to cause the *Purim* story to happen later on! When *Achashveirosh* decided to hang *Haman*, it had to be that everyone already knew the king could judge cases even though they had to deal with himself! So that's why *Hashem* arranged that *Achashveirosh* decided *Vashti's* case himself.

But one can ask- how is that comparable?! How can *Achashveirosh* judging *Vashti's* case prove he can judge *Haman's*?! In *Vashti's* case the officers would have been even more biased than him. so *Achashveirosh* had to judge it himself, but in *Haman's* case, he was biased against *Haman* and the judges weren't so the judges could've done it! Why did the *Vashti* story help *Achashveirosh* in the *Haman* story?

**We see from here that once a system is broken for any reason, it's completely broken!**

Even though the logic for breaking the system by *Vashti* no longer applied, the system was already broken, so *Achashveirosh* could judge in the *Haman* case as well.

When we set rules and commitments for ourselves, and we ever break them, even we have a million good reasons why this time is special, it's still broken! Next time it will be so much harder to keep the commitment even without all those reasons applying at all. **Whenever possible, we have to be super careful about ever breaking our commitments and boundaries even for good reasons!**