

## Is it worse to steal a little than a lot?

Stealing a sizeable amount is usually thought to be worse than stealing a negligible amount. For example, we tend to think of stealing an item from the supermarket to be worse than taking extra (or too many extra knives or forks).

The Generation of the Flood is known as a generation of corruption. Many of our sages interpret *hamas* to be moral corruption such as *gilluy arayoth*.

However, in contrast to this, the Talmud Yerushalmi interprets *hamas* as stealing less than the value of a *perutah*, an amount which cannot be claimed in court. There is no legal recourse. But it is this kind of stealing which incurs Divine retribution. When the legal system cannot bring a person to justice, God does.

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