

## Comparison between *Hazama* (Conspiring witness) and *Hachashah*

Ref: *Sefer Shoftim, Hilchot Edut, Chapter 18*



To punish an *ed zomem* (conspiring witness) in the same way he wished to have the defendant punished.<sup>8</sup>

Difference between *ed zomem* (conspiring witnesses) and *hachchashah* (contradictory witnesses).

*Ed zomem* focuses on activity of witnesses themselves. Contradictory witnesses focus on the event.

The punishment for *ed zomem* is that they receive the very same punishment which they conspired against the litigant. With *hachchashah* there is no punishment, but their testimonies become nullified. (both sets)

	<i>Hazamah</i>	<i>Hachchashah</i>	Explanation
Witnesses focus on event (one says event took place, other says it did not because ..)	×	✓	
Witnesses focus on other witnesses and do not commit to the event at all	✓	✓	
Do not follow majority	✓	✓	In both <i>hazamah</i> and <i>hachchashah</i> 2 can nullify 100 and 100 can nullify 2.
Lying witnesses do not need a warning	✓	✓	
Disqualification of one set of witnesses has to be done in presence of second set	✓	×	
Public announcement made on witnesses	✓	×	