

## Errors of Sanhedrin Rulings

Ref: *Sefer Korbanot, Hilchot Shogeg, Chapters 12–13*



That the *Sanhedrin* shall bring an offering if they erred and gave a ruling contrary to strict Torah Law.<sup>5</sup>

Relates to the *Sanhedrin* making a ruling for the Community at large resulting in inadvertent sinning of community.

Many conditions need to be present before the court would be liable. I.e.

- Has to be the High Court of 71 judges
- The *Nasi* who presides over the Court participates in the ruling
- All the judges have to be fit to deliver rulings
- All of them must err in the ruling (or most of them err and the others are silent).
- Their ruling is explicit and they state to the people what they must do i.e. ‘you are permitted to do this.’
- The people who transgress act in error, thinking that this is the law
- The *Bet Din* rules that part of a *mitzvah* is negated but the rest remains an obligation.
- The *Bet Din* must become aware that they ruled erroneously

If all these conditions are fulfilled then the *Bet Din* is obligated to bring Offerings.

Practically this means that each Tribe has to bring these Offerings. (i.e. x 12)

- *Bet Din Shogeg al avodat Kochavim*

For erroneous ruling on *avodah zarah*, each Tribe has to bring:

- |                         |                                                                    |
|-------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------|
| – Goat as <i>Chatat</i> | 1) Burnt in special place outside <i>Yerushalayim</i>              |
| – Bull as <i>Olah</i>   | 2) Blood brought up to the curtains of the <i>Kodshei kodashim</i> |

- *Par Helem Davar* (bull of Lapse of Awareness)

For erroneous rulings regarding the other punishments of *karet*:

- Bull as *Chatat*
  - ◇ Burnt in special place outside *Yerushalayim*
  - ◇ Blood brought to the curtain of *Kodshei kadashim*

The High Court were never required to bring an *Asham Taluy* if they were in doubt whether they had ruled erroneously.

### Reminder

Pack on *Korbanot* (Sacrifices)



If the majority of the community in *Eretz Yisrael* acted according to the High Court erroneous ruling, then the High Court is liable.

This majority could be numerical or even just according to the number of Tribes i.e. if majority of Tribes acted, even if their total number was in minority, then the High Court is liable and community is exempt.

If community who transgress are in the minority, then High Court is exempt and each

member of that minority have to bring a *Korban Chatat* (after error became known)