



The Five Damages: Overlaps and Divides

A reflection on
psychology, sociology, and
religion in the study of
Baba Kamma

TAL PEMSTEIN AND JUDITH EPSTEIN

A Jewish Book Award Winner of 2021

"THOUGHT PROVOKING INSIGHTS INTO THE DEEP
INTERTWININGS OF DAMAGES. 5/5 STARS."

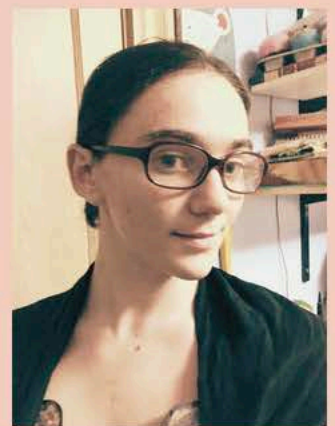
- HILLEL, THE SCHOLAR AND TIME TRAVELER

"One who injures another is liable to pay compensation for that injury due to five types of indemnity: He must pay for damage, for pain, for medical costs, for loss of livelihood, and for humiliation" (Mishnah Baba Kamma 83b (8:1)).

These five categories of restitution compose fundamental Jewish law - but how are they meant to be interpreted, and how can these interpretations develop as civilizations progress and the world around us changes? How do the complexities of individual experience influence the assessment of the damages? Do these payments stand alone, or can they be interpreted as one? In this endeavor into the minds of the ancient rabbis, award winning authors Tal Pemstein and Judith Epstein delve into the interconnected nature of the five damages and attempt to untangle the roots that unite them.

"WOULD NEVER RECOMMEND. 0/5 STARS."

- SHAMMAI, ANOTHER SCHOLAR & TIME TRAVELER



Tal Pemstein and Judith Epstein are award winning writers and scholars, based at the Harvard University Hillel (but more recently, their bedrooms). Their previous books include "The Complexities of the Elephant-Walled Sukkah," "How to Properly Slice a Bagel," and "Why You Should Never Wear Shoes to Bed." Check out hebrewcollege.edu/programs/teen-beit-midrash/ to learn more!

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