

Deception Prevention is... Education!

Congregational Consumer education secures your Sifrei Torah against deception...

Today there are very few, if any, thefts of Torah scrolls from congregations. Most scrolls are properly locked and alarmed.

But, are Torahs alarmed and secured against DECEPTION?

- A Sofer/Dealer comes into a shul. He "looks" OK. He examines the Torahs and then reports that most of the scrolls are not Kosher and either not worth fixing, very expensive to repair (from \$6,000 to \$15,000), or beyond repair.
- They console you by explaining that a Torah is like a car which, after time, becomes "worn out", will "fade out" and can't be used.
- To the question, "what should be done?" the congregation is told that the scrolls should, or must be, buried! Either then, or sometime later, the congregation is called and asked if they want to use the 'service' of the Sofer/Dealer as he is willing to bury the scrolls for free! Of course they are never buried, rather resold.

Torah theft is no longer an issue today because the "thieves" have found a much "better" and "safer" way of stealing Torahs - it is by the way of DECEPTION!



- Today this is the most common form of Torah theft and sadly, this is now happening every day. We can give too many names of congregations that have had such experiences. In most cases, after a second evaluation, it is revealed that most of the scrolls that were rendered Pasul and beyond repair, were actually in perfect condition - and worth a lot of money or easily repairable.
- This deception is so common that most congregations find it hard to believe that they are being "taken in" until it's too late. The shock is great and often people are embarrassed to even bring up the issue.

Regarding deceitful Sofrim...

- We feel something must be done about fraudulent Sta'm practices other than creating "blacklists" of known iniquitous scribes/dealers (which we know will never happen and would never solve the problem).
- The only solution is by positive educational empowerment of Rabbis, Cantors and congregational lay leaders. You should be able to understand the real condition of your Sifrei Torah and what is only hype and deception. This way, without negativity about any individual or organization, communities will be in the position to make educated decisions in regard to their Torah scrolls and will eliminate the problem from within.

Here is a very short list of some of the communities (who are willing to have their names listed), that on-site education helped to uncover unscrupulous practices of Sofrim/Dealers, ranging from complicated doublespeak to outright fraud and theft.

1. Rabbi Kravitz, Adath Jeshurun, MN
2. Rabbi Loeb, Beth El, Baltimore, MD
3. Rabbi Rosen, Beth Yeshurun, Houston, TX
4. Rabbi Cohen, Beth Shalom, Minnetonka, MN
5. Rabbi Frishman, B'nai Jeshurun, NJ
6. Rabbi Fine, Bet Torah, Mt. Kisco, NY
7. Rabbi Gold, Temple Beth Torah, Tamarac, FL
8. Rabbi Konheim, Beth Am, Baltimore, MD
9. Rabbi Allen, Beth Jacob Cong., Mendota Hts, MN
10. Paul Young, B'nai Shalom, Westborough, MA
11. Rabbi Farber, Beth Torah Adath Yeshurun, FL
12. Rabbi Weinstein, B'nai Israel, Baton Rouge, LA
13. Rabbi Taub, B'nai Jehudah, Kansas City, MO
14. Rabbi Schonberger, Temple El Emeth, OH
15. Rabbi Hecht, Temple Chaverim, Plainview, NY
16. Rabbi Herber, Beth Israel Cong., Milwaukee, WI

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An educated consumer is a happy consumer