

Bava Kamma 2

Someone set up a Beehive to Produce Honey. A Tourist Walked by and Was Stung. Is the Owner of the Beehive Responsible to Pay?

Rav Yitzchok Zilberstein raised the following question: Someone lived in a suburban area. He decided that he wanted to go into the business of producing and selling natural organic honey. He filed all his papers with the town and legally set up a beehive at the end of his property near a forest. The beehive developed and honey started to flow. One day a tourist walked by the beekeeper's home and was stung by the bees. He was treated in the local hospital and released that same day. When he received the bill in the mail, he forwarded it to the beekeeper. Who has to pay the medical bills: the beekeeper or the tourist?

The tractate *Bava Kamma* begins with a Mishnah which teaches that an owner is liable to pay for the damages caused by his property. It gives four examples of this principle. First, if a man owns an ox and the ox gored someone else's ox, the owner of the damaging ox must pay for the monetary loss. An ox that gores is called *keren*, "horn," after the part of its body that inflicts the damage. Second, if a man dug a pit in the public street and then an animal fell into the pit and