

Bava Metzia 2**When Two Yahrzeits Clash, for a Father
Versus for a Grandfather, How Should We
Split Up Leading the Davening?**

Bava Metzia begins with a lesson about conflicting claims. Two people come to court, with each holding on to the edge of a cloak. If one claims, “I found the cloak,” while the other claims, “I found the cloak,” they must each swear that they own at least half the garment, and the cloak is divided between the two of them. If one claims, “The cloak is all mine,” and the other one claims, “Half the cloak is mine, but half is yours,” then there is a different division. Since both agreed that half belonged to the first claimant, he receives that entire half. Each then claimed the second half. The disputed half is divided equally. Thus, one will receive three quarters and the other will receive a quarter of the cloak. Each claimant must swear that he does not own less than the amount of the garment he is receiving. *Lehoros Nasan* (*cheilek 8 siman 1*) utilized this law to determine the resolution of a dispute in *shul*.

Reuvein had *yahrtzeit* for his father. He came to the *shul* wishing to lead the community in prayer. Boruch also wanted to lead the prayers. It was his grandfather’s *yahrtzeit*. His father was a member of