

# PAYING ON TIME PART 18

*by Rabbi Yehonasan Gefen*

Last week we discussed how bal tolin applies to paying child workers as well as adults. Another issue in which bal tolin is relevant is paying the exact amount owed. If the employer owes a certain amount of money, he may not round down that amount unless he obtains the specific consent of the worker. For example, an employer owed his worker \$154.25; he wrote a check of \$154, rounding down the 25 cents and the worker took the check but never said he agreed to the reduction. In such a case the employer has transgressed no less than six Torah commandments.

Another common situation in which bal tolin can easily be transgressed; after the work has been completed the employer might feel he owes less money than was originally agreed to; accordingly, he may try to pay less to the worker hoping that the worker does not object. Such behavior is forbidden from the Torah, even if he reduces the payment by a tiny amount.

---

1. Much of the information for this essay is taken from "Halachos of Other People's Money" by Rabbi Yisroel Pinchos Bodner.

---

Text Copyright © 2009 by Rabbi Yehonasan Gefen and **[Torah.org](https://torah.org)**

 Visit Rabbi Gefen's new blog at [rabbiygefen.blogspot.com](http://rabbiygefen.blogspot.com).

**Rabbi Gefen's new book, *The Guiding Light*, is now available! To order, please contact Rabbi Gefen at [Gefen123@smile.net.il](mailto:Gefen123@smile.net.il) or 00972 52 761 9935.**