

## **"And they shall confess their sins." (5:7)**

The *mitzvah* of "*viduy*," confession, is the prime prerequisite for performing *teshuvah*, repentance. Indeed, without *viduy* the *teshuvah* process has no value. It is puzzling that the *Torah* chooses to mention the *mitzvah* of *viduy* specifically at this point, in reference to the sin of stealing.

The *Chidushei Ha'Rim* explains that actually every transgression committed by man consists of a form of theft. We have been granted life, health, and the ability to perform actions, so that we may serve the Almighty. To employ these G-d given abilities in behavior which violates *Torah* law is tantamount to theft. Not only do we demonstrate ingratitude for all that we enjoy, but we also disdain its true purpose. This is the reason that the *Torah* inserts the requirement of *viduy* in the *pesukim* dealing with theft. While repenting for any violations of the *Torah*, we must concurrently recognize that we have illegally made use of Hashem's gifts to us. With this awareness in mind, our resolution for the future will be realistic, so that proper *teshuvah* can be effected.