“You shall not lie to one another.” (19:11)

One day, a number of the prominent householders of Brisk came to their *rav*, *Horav Yosef Dov Soloveitchik, z.l.,* the *Bais HaLevi*, complaining that the *kefirah*, heresy, spouted by members of the *Haskalah*, enlightenment movement, was rampant. These people were being eminently successful and making serious incursions into the observant community. Regrettably, this was the scenario in many Jewish communities. Why were they succeeding? After all, everything they were expounding was founded in falsehood. *Rav* Yosha Ber turned to them and queried, “Why are you surprised? Truth always prevails.” “*Rebbe*, how can you say that? How can you refer to apostasy as *emes*, truth?” they asked, somewhat incredulously. The *Bais HaLevi* explained, “The *kofrim*, heretics, are battling for their *sheker*, false ideals, with *emes*. They are devout atheists. They *truly* believe in what they are doing. This is why they are successful.”

Unfortunately, we cannot say the same in regard to our level of observance. We demonstrate a lack of integrity in our adherence to *mitzvos*. Moreover, quite often when we battle for the *emes* of *Torah*, it is for the wrong reasons. Even when one fights to preserve the truth, it must be based upon virtue and principle.