

ONE LAW*

תּוֹרָה אֶחָת יִהְיֶה

לְאֶזְרָח וְלִגֵּר

הַגֵּר בְּתוֹכְכֶם:

One law it will be
to the homeborn and to the alien
who sojourns among you.

One law it will be to the homeborn and to the alien who sojourns among you—When one accepts the law and, in turn, is accepted as a Jew by a bet din (rabbinic court), complete equality is achieved with those who came out of Egypt and stood at Sinai—according to the law: “The born heathen receives full and complete equality of rank as soon as he [or she] enrolls into the Jewish bond with God” (S.R. Hirsch, 12:48). It is forbidden to call attention to Jews who have chosen to live by the law of Israel, separating them from those born to it; it is forbidden to remind them of a prior life, lifting up their pain or shame, or to withhold any honor, privilege, or kindness because of their past. There are no “converts” in Judaism, only Jews.

* Exodus 12:49 (in Bo)