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Kosher Presumption or Plot Presumption? Blindness Narrative in the Rulings in the Aviner Case

The article analyzes the rulings given in the Jerusalem Regional Rabbinical Court and the Grand Court of Appeals regarding the lawsuit against Rabbi Aviner for sexual harassment. The article argues that a narrative bias led the two tribunals to adopt Aviner's arguments, and to dismiss those of the plaintiff. In addition, the narrative bias influenced the halakhic analysis of the case, leading the court to a hearing on the defense that allegedly gives kosher presumption to Aviner; and to the conclusion that this defense means that the plaintiff's words are nothing but "malicious defamation." The article calls on the tribunal to broaden its narrative perspective in order to avoid the risk of such biases.