

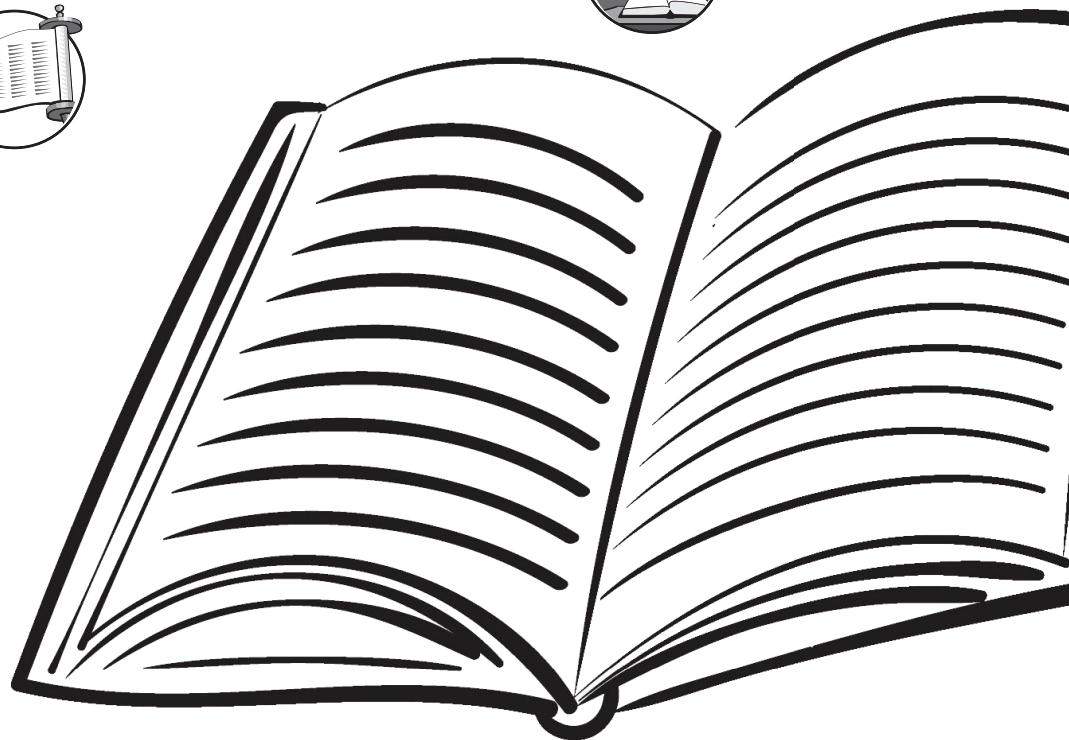


# AVOSATHON

COMBINING TORAH STUDY WITH CHESED



Chai Lifeline



A PROJECT OF PARSHATHON



נתאי הארבלי אומר . . . . . says נתאי הארבלי  
 הרחק משכן רע . . . . . Distance yourself from a bad neighbor  
 ואל תתחבר לרשע . . . . . And don't associate with a wicked person  
 ואל תתיאש מן הפרענות . . . . . And don't give up hope that the bad person  
 will be punished for his deeds



**P O I N T S T O P O N D E R**

1. Everyone wants to have friends, but we must be careful to choose the right friends. Friends who are bad influences can cause us trouble.
2. Nothing that a person does is overlooked. The people who do good things will be rewarded and those whose deeds are evil will be punished.



שמעיה ואבטליון קבלו מהם אומר . . . . . received the leadership from them . . . . . and אבטליון and שמעיה  
 (שמעון בן שטח and יהודה בן טבאי from)  
 שמעיה אומר . . . . . says שמעיה  
 אהב את המלאכה . . . . . Love work  
 ושנא את הרבנות . . . . . And hate being in a position of power  
 ואל תתודע לרשות . . . . . And don't join with the government officials



**P O I N T S T O P O N D E R**

1. A person should keep himself busy. It is important to do good things with your time and not to idle.
2. Even if people in high positions are powerful, there are many difficulties they have to face.



He (הלל) would say ..... הוא היה אומר  
 If I am not concerned about myself, who will be for me? ..... אם אין אני לי, מי לי?  
 And if I am only for myself, what am I? ..... וכשאני לעצמי, מדה אני?  
 And if not now, when? ..... ואם לא עכשיו, אימת?



**P O I N T S T O P O N D E R**

1. Even though we have to be concerned about other people, we must also think of ourselves: our health, our families and our education.
2. Many people only think of themselves, but הלל teaches us that we must also think of others.
3. “Never put off for tomorrow what you can do today”.



**M I S H N A H I N S I G H T S**

”הוא היה אומר: אם אין אני לי, מי לי“

Everyone has the potential to do wonderful things. The trick is to find our strengths and to build on them.

A man came to the Baal Shem Tov and cried to him, “Rebbe, I have been praying for years to see אליהו הנביא. I haven’t been able to. How can I be worthy to see him?” The Baal Shem Tov said, “Fill your wagon with food and clothing, travel to the city where the widow, Rebbitzin Feigy lives with her large family. Take the wagon and empty it into her home.” The man followed the Baal Shem Tov’s instructions. When he came to the widow’s door, he heard Rebbitzin Feigy crying to her children, “Oy, my dear children, we don’t have enough food and your clothing is torn and threadbare!” Her young son replied, “Don’t cry, Mommy. ‘ה will help us!” At that moment, the man opened the door and unloaded the contents of his wagon into the house. The surprised widow and children now had all the food and clothing they needed. The man looked around the room, hoping to see אליהו הנביא, as the Baal Shem Tov had promised, but he did not see him.

The man traveled back to the Baal Shem Tov and said, “I did exactly what the Rebbe has told me but I did not see אליהו הנביא.” The Baal Shem Tov told him to return to the widow’s house once more with food and clothing. He obeyed the Rebbe and went back.

Again, he heard the widow cry, “Oy, tomorrow is יום כיפור and we don’t have enough food or the nice clothing.” Again her son said, “Don’t worry, Mommy. ‘ה will help!”

At that moment, the man opened the door and unloaded his wagon once again to the wonder of the widow and her children! The little boy’s sister turned to her brother and said, “Who is this man who always comes when we are in need?” The boy answered, “He must be אליהו הנביא!”

Yes, we all have in ourselves the ability to be אליהו הנביא. Don’t look elsewhere, just look into your own abilities, and you will be successful.



שמאי אומר . . . . . says שמאי  
 עשה תורתך קבע . . . . . Make your תורה study fixed  
 אמר מעט ועשה הרבה . . . . . Speak little, but do a lot  
 והוי מקבל את כל האדם . . . . . And greet every person  
 בסבר פנים יפות . . . . . With a cheerful face.



**P O I N T S T O P O N D E R**

1. Set aside time for תורה study every day and you will be successful.
2. Actions speak louder than words. It is more important to do good things than to talk about them.
3. You can brighten another person's day by greeting him or her with a smile and a warm hello.



רבן שמעון בן גמליאל אומר . . . . . says רבן שמעון בן גמליאל  
 על שלשה דברים העולם קים . . . . . The world exists because of three things  
 על הדין . . . . . Because of justice  
 ועל האמת . . . . . And because of truth  
 ועל השלום . . . . . And because of peace  
 שנאמר: . . . . . As it says:  
 "אמת ומשפט שלום, שפטו בשעריכם" . . . . . "Truth and justice, peace should rule in your gates"



**P O I N T S T O P O N D E R**

1. Honest people help the world exist.
2. It is very important that we all follow the laws of the country.
3. The world would be a better place if we could all get along.



רבי אומר . . . . . (רבי יהודה הנשיא) רבי  
 איזו היא דרך ישרה שיבר לו האדם? . . . . .  
 כל שהיא תפארת לעשה . . . . .  
 ותפארת לו מן האדם . . . . .  
 והוי זהיר במצוה קלה כבחמורה . . . . .  
 as you are with a “major” one  
 שאין אתה יודע מתן שכרן של מצות . . . . .  
 והוי מחשב הפסד מצוה כנגד שכרה . . . . .  
 compared to the reward you get for doing it  
 ושכר עבירה כנגד הפסדה . . . . .  
 compared to the punishment you get for doing it  
 הסתכל בשלשה דברים . . . . .  
 ואין אתה בא לידי עברה . . . . .  
 דע מה למעלה ממך . . . . .  
 עין רואה . . . . .  
 ואוזן שומעת . . . . .  
 וכל מעשיך בספר נכתבים . . . . .



**P O I N T S T O P O N D E R**

1. One should not think that seemingly easy מצוות receive less reward than seemingly hard מצוות.
2. A person should always realize what he loses by doing sins instead of doing מצוות.
3. We should always imagine that there is a camera and a tape recorder in Heaven seeing and listening to everything we do and say.



**M I S H N A H I N S I G H T S**

“עין רואה, ואוזן שומעת, וכל מעשיך בספר נכתבים”

The Chofetz Chaim asked, “Why are there so many more inventions in our generation than ever before? Now we have telephones, cameras, stereos and more?” He answered that although the תורה says that there is an eye watching from afar and an ear hearing from far and all the actions of a person are recorded, people didn’t believe it. Now that we have telephones, cameras and stereos, we can better understand how this is true.

Many of the great Torah scholars and Rabbis gathered at the first World Agudah Convention in Europe. Photographers wanted to take pictures, but some scholars didn’t want their pictures taken. Rabbi Meir Shapiro זצ”ל, who instituted the system of Daf Yomi, learning one page of גמרא a day, felt strongly that the event should be recorded on film, so that future generations could be inspired by the faces of these great people. He related it to the story of יוסף הצדיק, who was saved from sinning when he saw the face of his father, יעקב אבינו, looking down at him in the room. Just looking at the faces of our great צדיקים can greatly effect a person! This is why so many people have pictures of Gedolim on the walls of their homes.



הלל says ..... הלל אומר  
 Do not separate yourself from the community..... אל תפרוש מן הצבור  
 And do not believe in yourself until the day of your death..... ואל תאמין בעצמך עד יום מותך.  
 And do not judge your fellow man ..... ואל תדין את חברך עד שתגיע למקומו.  
 until you have reached his place  
 Do not make a statement that cannot easily be understood,... ואל תאמר דבר שאי אפשר לשמוע,  
 thinking it will be understood eventually ..... שסופו להשמע.  
 And do not say when I have free time, I will study תורה, ..... ואל תאמר לכשאפנה אשנה.  
 for perhaps you will never have free time..... שמא לא תפנה.



**P O I N T S T O P O N D E R**

1. A person should try to have a group of friends. It is not healthy to be alone.
2. Do not judge your friends until you go through a similar experience.
3. Don't put off learning, hoping you will eventually have time, because that may never happen.



He (הלל) used to say ..... הוא היה אומר  
 An uncivilized person cannot be afraid of sin..... אין בור ירא חטא  
 And an unlearned person cannot be a righteous person ..... ולא עם הארץ חסיד  
 And a bashful person cannot learn ..... ולא הבישן למד  
 And a person who gets angry easily cannot teach..... ולא הקפדן מלמד  
 And a person who spends too much time ..... ולא כל המרבה בסחורה מחכים  
 in business cannot become wise  
 And in a place where there are no leaders, ..... ובמקום שאין אנשים השתדל להיות איש  
 try to be a leader



**P O I N T S T O P O N D E R**

1. When you don't understand something, don't be afraid to ask questions.
2. One must study the תורה in order to do מצוות correctly.



He (רבי יוחנן בן זכאי) said to them (his students) ..... אמר להם  
 Go out and see which is the best path ..... צאו וראו איזו היא דרך טובה  
 that a person should attach himself to ..... שידבק בה האדם  
 רבי אליעזר says "Look at everything with a good eye" ..... רבי אליעזר אומר: עין טובה  
 רבי יהושע says, "A good friend" ..... רבי יהושע אומר: חבר טוב  
 רבי יוסי says, "A good neighbor" ..... רבי יוסי אומר: שכן טוב  
 רבי שמעון says, ..... רבי שמעון אומר: הרואה את הנולד  
 "One should consider the outcome of his actions"  
 רבי אלעזר says, "Have a good heart" ..... רבי אלעזר אומר: לב טוב  
 He (רבי יוחנן בן זכאי) said to them ..... אמר להם  
 I prefer the words of רבי אלעזר בן ערך ..... רואה אני את דברי אלעזר בן ערך  
 to your words ..... מדבריכם  
 Because his words (a good heart) ..... שבכלל דבריו דבריכם  
 include everything you said in your words



**P O I N T S T O P O N D E R**

1. Try to look at things with a positive eye and always be cheerful.
2. A person who is a good friend will have good friends.
3. Think of what the results will be before doing anything.
4. The most important thing to have is a good heart.



רבי יהושע אומר ..... רבי יהושע says .....  
 עין רעה ויצר הרע ושנאת הבריות ..... An evil eye, bad desires and hatred of other people  
 מוציאין את האדם מן העולם ..... Remove a person from the world



**P O I N T S T O P O N D E R**

1. People who are jealous never enjoy what they have.
2. A person who can't get along with others will have very few friends.



רבי אלעזר איש ברתותא אומר..... רבי אלעזר of ברתותא says .....  
 Give 'ה back from that which He gives you (money, talents, ability) .....  
 Because you and your possessions are His .....  
 And so we find by דוד, who says .....  
 Everything comes from You, and whatever we have .....  
 given You, comes from Your hand



**P O I N T S T O P O N D E R**

1. Since everything we have comes from 'ה, we must give צדקה with the money that He gives us.
2. This does not apply only to money, but also to abilities and talents.



הוא היה אומר..... (רבי חנינא בן דוסא) used to say .....  
 All whose good deeds exceed his wisdom .....  
 His wisdom will last.....  
 But anyone whose wisdom exceeds his good deeds.....  
 His wisdom will not last .....



**P O I N T S T O P O N D E R**

1. Putting your wisdom into action by doing מצוות is the best way to become wise.
2. It is not enough to just learn about תורה and מדות, you must put your learning into action.





רבי חנינא בן דוסא אומר . . . . . רבי חנינא בן דוסא says . . . . .  
 כל שיראת חטאו קודמת לחכמתו . . . . . The person whose fear of sin goes before his wisdom . . . . .  
 חכמתו מתקימת . . . . . His wisdom will last . . . . .  
 וכל שחכמתו קודמת ליראת חטאו . . . . . But anyone whose wisdom goes before his fear of sin . . . . .  
 אין חכמתו מתקימת . . . . . His wisdom will not last . . . . .



**P O I N T S T O P O N D E R**

1. We are all given wisdom to use for good purposes and not for bad ones.
2. People who are plotting to do bad things will always be outsmarted and caught.



**M I S H N A H I N S I G H T S**

”כל שיראת חטאו קודמת לחכמתו, חכמתו מתקימת”

The תורה tells us that we should not sway from the rulings of the חכמים, either toward the right or left. This means that we should always have יראת החטא and אמונת חכמים and follow the teachings of the חכמים, even if we don’t understand their meaning.

A Gerrer Kollel talmid, Dovid, lived in a small apartment in Yerushalayim with a wife and eight children. In addition to the meager salary he received from the Kollel, he received a disability pension from the Israeli government as he suffered from a serious illness and could not work. He didn’t have enough to feed his family.

Dovid spoke to his caseworker about his need for additional funds. The caseworker told him that an increase would only be given after an unannounced home visit. Dovid became very nervous and decided to ask the Gerrer Rebbe for a bracha. After explaining the case, the Rebbe nodded his head, closed his eyes and handed Dovid an orange. He said, “ה will help. Go home and make a blessing on this orange, together with your family.”

Dovid didn’t understand how this would help, but he decided to follow the Rebbe’s instructions. Later that evening, he gathered his family around the table and cut the orange into ten pieces. He gave one to his wife and each child. They recited the bracha together and ate the orange. A few days later, Dovid received the following letter from the government office.

“I came to make a home visit this week, but I did not come into your home. As I got near your apartment, I heard through an open window that you were sitting down to a meal with your family. You told them that you were cutting a single fruit to share. I did not need to come inside to complete my interview, because I saw your need for additional money. Your request has been approved and you will be getting an increased check shortly.”



He (רבי חנינא בן דוסא) used to say ..... הוא היה אומר .  
 The one whose pleasant actions make him ..... כל שרוח הבריות נוחה הימנו .  
 beloved by his fellow man  
 He is also beloved by 'ה' (because of these actions) ..... רוח המקום נוחה הימנו .  
 But the one who actions do not ..... וכל שאין רוח הבריות נוחה הימנו .  
 make him beloved by his fellow man  
 He is also not beloved by 'ה' (because of these actions) ..... אין רוח המקום נוחה הימנו .



1. If someone acts nicely to others, 'ה' is surely happy with them in שמים.
2. If someone acts in a way that is not pleasing to others, his actions are also not pleasing to 'ה'.



He (רבי דוסא בן הרכינס) used to say ..... רבי דוסא בן הרכינס אומר .  
 Sleeping late in the morning ..... שנה של שחרית .  
 And drinking wine in the afternoon ..... ויין של צהרים .  
 And childish conversation ..... ושיחת הילדים .  
 And attending the synagogues of the ignorant ..... וישיבת בתי כנסיות של עמי הארץ .  
 Remove a person from this world ..... מוצאין את האדם מן העולם .



**P O I N T S T O P O N D E R**

1. Sleeping late in the morning starts the day off on a wrong note.
2. Speaking about unimportant things and keeping company with people who are bad influences can spoil a person's life.



He (בן עזאי) used to say. . . . . הוא היה אומר . . . . .  
 You should not treat any person as if he is worthless. . . . . אל תהי בז לכל אדם. . . . .  
 And you should never think that something has no use . . . . . ואל תהי מפליג לכל דבר . . . . .  
 Because there is no person . . . . . שאין לך אדם. . . . .  
 Who does not have a time that he is important . . . . . שאין לו שעה . . . . .  
 And there is no thing . . . . . ואין לך דבר . . . . .  
 That does not have a place where it is important . . . . . שאין לו מקום. . . . .



**P O I N T S T O P O N D E R**

1. We should not insult anyone or anything in this world.
2. We should not look at any of ה'’s creations as meaningless or unimportant.
3. Every person has a special role to play in this world. Everyone can make a unique donation, and everyone has a time and place where he is important.



רבי יוסי אומר. . . . . רבי יוסי says . . . . .  
 כל המכבד את התורה . . . . . תורה . . . . . Anyone who honors the  
 גופו מכבד על הבריות . . . . . Will be honored by people . . . . .  
 וכל המחלל את התורה . . . . . תורה . . . . . And anyone who disgraces the  
 גופו מחלל על הבריות . . . . . Will be disgraced by people . . . . .



**P O I N T S T O P O N D E R**

1. What are some things included in honoring the תורה?
  - a. Honoring a ספר תורה
  - b. Honoring and showing respect for people who study and teach תורה
2. What are some things included in disgracing the תורה?
  - a. Disgracing a ספר תורה
  - b. Disgracing people who study and teach תורה
  - c. Included in this is also acting in a way that creates a חילול ה' (disgracing ה'’s name)



רבי שמעון אומר	.....	רבי שמעון says
שלושה כתרין הם	.....	There are three crowns
כתר תורה	.....	The crown of תורה
וכתר כהונה	.....	And the crown of כהונה (priesthood)
וכתר מלכות	.....	And the crown of kingship
וכתר שם טוב	.....	And the crown of a good name
עולה על גביהן	.....	Is superior to all the others



**P O I N T S T O P O N D E R**

1. These three crowns correspond to the three things that the world stands on:  
תורה, the Temple service and kindness (the Jewish royal kings who represent kindness).
2. The best thing a person can have is a good name.



רבי יעקב אומר	.....	רבי יעקב says
העולם הזה דומה	.....	This world is compared
לפרוזודור	.....	To a hallway
בפני העולם הבא	.....	Before the World to Come
התקן עצמך בפרוזודור	.....	You must prepare yourself in the hallway
כדי שתכנס	.....	So that you will be able to enter
לטרקלין	.....	The banquet hall



**P O I N T S T O P O N D E R**

1. This world is only a hallway in comparison to the importance of the World to Come.  
The World to Come is compared to a banquet hall.
2. A person must prepare properly in this world in order to acquire a good portion in the next world.



רבי אלעזר הקפר says	רבי אלעזר הקפר אומר
Jealousy	הקנאה
And desire	והתאוה
And looking for honor	והכבוד
Remove a person	מוציאין את האדם
From this world	מן העולם



## P O I N T S T O P O N D E R

### JEALOUSY:

1. Don't be jealous of someone's possessions, position or power.
2. Instead of being envious of a learned person, try to learn from him or her and follow his/her example. An example of the terrible effects of jealousy: קרח was jealous of משה and אהרן. He caused a great rebellion among the Jewish people. In the end, קרח and his followers were swallowed alive by the earth.

### DESIRE:

1. The desire for money or physical needs can be a destructive force within a person. An example of proper desire: רבי יהודה הנשיא was a very rich man who had all the comforts of this world. Before he died, he lifted his ten fingers to Heaven and testified that he did not take the slightest bit of personal pleasure from this world or desire it for himself. All of his wealth was used for a higher purpose.
2. A person should be happy with what he has and not constantly desire more and more.

### SEEKING HONOR:

1. The love of honor and glory affects a person's life in a negative way.
2. Seeking honor is only acceptable when one accepts the honor in order to enhance the honor of ה' and His תורה.  
An example of the terrible effect of seeking honor:  
בני ישראל, one of the kings of ישראל, had a great need for honor and glory. He was afraid that he would lose the respect of the Jewish people when they gathered in the המקדש. He was afraid that he would seem secondary to the King of יהודה, because he would have to stand with the rest of the Jewish people while the king of יהודה sat and read from the תורה. As a result, he discouraged the Jewish people from going to ירושלים for the festivals by establishing his own houses of worship, and this was a very big עברה.



There were ten generations from אדם to נח ..... עשרה דורות מאדם ועד נח.  
 To show them how slow 'ה is to anger ..... להודיע כמה ארך אפים לפניו.  
 For all those generations angered Him increasingly ..... שכל הדורות היו מכעיסין ובאין.  
 Until He brought upon them the waters of the Flood ..... עד שהביא עליהם את מי המבול.



**P O I N T S T O P O N D E R**

1. In order to give people the opportunity to do תשובה, 'ה has patience and does not immediately punish those who do wrong.
2. 'ה's patience does not last forever. Eventually there are consequences for one's actions.



עשרה נסיונות נתנסנה אברהם אבינו ..... was tested with ten trials  
 And he withstood all of them ..... ועמד בכלם  
 This shows how great 'ה's love was for אבינו ..... להודיע כמה חבתו של אברהם אבינו.



**P O I N T S T O P O N D E R**

1. 'ה is constantly testing us in life in order to give us the opportunity to get stronger and better.
2. The more effort we put in, the more clearly it shows our love for 'ה.



There are four ways people can approach the house of study . . . . ארבע מדות בהולכי בית המדרש . . . .  
 a) one who goes but does not study . . . . . הולך ואינו עושה  
 Has the reward for going in his hand . . . . . שכר הליכה בידו  
 b) one who studies (at home) but does not go (to the house of study) . . . . . עושה ואינו הולך  
 Has the reward for studying in his hand . . . . . שכר מעשה בידו  
 c) one who goes and studies is a pious individual . . . . . הולך ועושה חסיד  
 d) one who does not go and does not study (at home) is a wicked person . . . . . לא הולך ולא עושה רשע



**P O I N T S T O P O N D E R**

1. תורה is so important that one is even rewarded just for going to an environment where תורה is studied.
2. 'ה rewards a person for every step taken in the pursuit of תורה.



יהודה בן תימא אומר . . . . . says יהודה בן תימא  
 הוי עז כנמר . . . . . Be bold as a leopard,  
 וקל כנשר . . . . . And light as an eagle,  
 רץ כצבי . . . . . Swift as a deer,  
 וגבור כארי . . . . . And strong as a lion.  
 לעשות רצון אביך שבשמים . . . . . To do the will of your Father in Heaven.



**P O I N T S T O P O N D E R**

1. One must be bold and ambitious when serving 'ה. Don't look for reasons to be excused from responsibilities.
2. Be swift and enthusiastic in performing מצוות.
3. Use your unique character to serve 'ה properly.



בן בג בג אומר . . . . . בן בג בג says . . . . .  
 הפך בה והפך בה . . . . . Delve into the תורה from all sides and continue to delve into it . . . . .  
 דכלה בה . . . . . Because everything is in it; . . . . .  
 ובה תחזי . . . . . Look deeply into it; . . . . .  
 וסיב ובלה בה . . . . . Grow old and gray over it; . . . . .  
 ומנה לא תזוע . . . . . You should never move away from it; . . . . .  
 שאין לך מדה טובה הימנה . . . . . For you can have no better portion than it. . . . .  
 בן הא הא אומר . . . . . בן הא הא says . . . . .  
 לפום צערא אגרא . . . . . According to the pain involved in doing מצוות, so will be the reward . . . . .



**P O I N T S T O P O N D E R**

1. All of life's wisdom is contained in the תורה.
2. Go beneath the surface to gain the true wisdom of the תורה.
3. People can discover additional ideas each time they study תורה.
4. The more effort you put into your learning, the greater your reward will be.



**M I S H N A H I N S I G H T S**

“הפך בה והפך בה דכולה בה ובה תחזי”

It is human nature to want to arrive at a conclusion quickly when studying תורה, and to examine the text superficially as a result. However, true wisdom and accurate conclusions can only be reached when one learns intensely and penetrates deeply below the surface. A reexamination of a previously studied topic is especially helpful in revealing new insights, because a review forces one to think more intently about the subject in which one is immersed.

The Chofetz Chaim used this method of intense study in all of his תורה studies, and he examined each topic that he learned in great depth as he tried to come to the correct conclusion from the text. The Chofetz Chaim devoted twenty eight years of his life to writing the משנה ברורה, the classic multi-volume commentary relating to the laws of daily Jewish life. One cannot depict the incredible effort that the Chofetz Chaim expended as he sought to clarify the laws for the sake of his people. In many instances, he spent weeks and even months immersed in a single chapter of the שלחן ערוך. The Chofetz Chaim truly experienced “לפום צערא אגרא” His reward for his dedication to תורה studies was to be enlightened by ה' and to be granted the ability to understand the תורה. The culmination of this reward was the משנה ברורה, considered to be the final word on all matters relating to the laws of daily Jewish life.





He who learns from his friend ..... הלומד מחבירו  
 A single chapter, a single law, a single verse, ..... פרק אחד, או הלכה אחת, או פסוק אחד,  
 Or a single תורה statement or even a single letter ..... או דבור אחד, או אפילו אות אחת  
 Must treat his friend with honor ..... צריך לנהג בו כבוד  
 As we find that דוד, king of ישראל בני ישראל ..... שכן מצינו בדוד מלך ישראל  
 Learned only two things from אחיתפל ..... שלא למד מאחיתפל אלא שני דברים בלבד  
 Yet he called him his teacher, his guide and his close advisor. .... וקראו רבו, אלופו ומידעו



**P O I N T S T O P O N D E R**

1. The gift of תורה knowledge is so great that we must honor those who teach us even a little תורה.
2. Never underestimate a moment of תורה learning, because even a very small amount is so valuable.



Do not seek greatness for yourself ..... אל תבקש גדלה לעצמך  
 And do not desire honor ..... ואל תחמד כבוד  
 Let your actions be even greater than your learning ..... יותר מלמודך עשה  
 Do not desire for the table of kings ..... ואל תתאוה לשלחנם של מלכים  
 Because your table is greater than their table ..... ששלחנך גדול משלחנם  
 And your crown is greater than their crown ..... וכתרך גדול מכתרם  
 And your Master can be trusted ..... ונאמן הוא בעל מלאכתך שישלם לך שכר פעלתך  
 to pay you for your work



**P O I N T S T O P O N D E R**

1. Do not seek greatness for yourself, no matter how much תורה you learn and how many מצוות you perform.
2. Do not be tempted by the lifestyle of royalty, because the reward in the World to Come for a תורה life is greater than anything a king can give you.



This is the way of תורה . . . . .	כך היא דרכה של תורה
Eat bread with salt . . . . .	פת במלח תאכל
Drink water in small measures . . . . .	ומים במשורה תשתה
Sleep on the ground . . . . .	ועל הארץ תישן
Live a life of hardship . . . . .	וחיי צער תחיה
But you should still work hard in תורה study . . . . .	ובתורה אתה עמל
If you do this . . . . .	אם אתה עושה כן
“You are praiseworthy, and it is well with you” . . . . .	“אשריך וטוב לך”
“You are praiseworthy” – in this world . . . . .	“אשריך” - בעולם הזה
“And it is well with you” – in the World to Come . . . . .	“וטוב לך” - לעולם הבא



**P O I N T S T O P O N D E R**

1. A person should not let his poverty get in the way of his תורה learning, no matter how poor he may be.
2. A person’s love for תורה should be so deep that he would be willing to sacrifice luxuries for it.



**M I S H N A H I N S I G H T S**

“...ובתורה אתה עמל ... אשריך וטוב לך”

Sometimes, when a difficulty arises, people perform the מצוות with a feeling of sadness and they project an impression of how hard it is to be a Jew.

Rav Moshe Feinstein זצ"ל, a Gadol Hador of his generation, often spoke of the importance of performing מצוות with a sincere sense of joy, even when the fulfillment of a מצווה requires an enormous amount of personal sacrifice.

Rav Moshe did more than speak of this belief - he practiced it on a daily basis. Rav Moshe זצ"ל would spread out his young son’s clothing on the radiators in the early hours of the cold winter mornings, and when his garments were warm, he would dress his son under the covers before sending him off to Yeshiva. Rav Moshe minimized the discomfort his son experienced while awakening early in his cold room, because he wanted his son to look forward to תורה study even though his preparations for learning were difficult. His son associated תורה study with the physical warmth of his clothing and the emotional warmth of his father, and Rav Moshe thereby successfully instilled in him a love for and an appreciation of תורה’s.

Rav Moshe’s own learning reflected this principle as well. He spent many, many hours each day immersed in Torah study, awakening at 4:00 a.m. every morning in order to begin his learning in the calm, quiet hours before שחרית. Despite Rav Moshe’s long hours and intense study, he once confided that no matter how exhausting his schedule was on any given day, he always found great joy in the תורה and never fell asleep while learning. Rav Moshe truly internalized the importance of practicing מצוות with joy; the enthusiasm and pleasure that he derived from his תורה study genuinely uplifted his spirit and was a complete fulfillment of “אשריך בעולם הזה וטוב לך בעולם הבא”.



Great is תורה. .... גדולה תורה.  
 For it gives life to those who follow it ..... שהיא נותנת חיים לעושיה  
 Both in this world and in the World to Come ..... בעולם הזה ובעולם הבא.



**P O I N T S T O P O N D E R**

1. תורה creates a wonderful and enjoyable lifestyle even in this world, for people who follow the תורה's way are the happiest.
2. The study of תורה, plus its application in practice, provides man with a good life both here and in the World to Come.

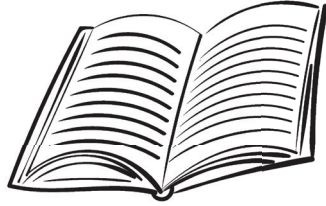


Everything that ה' created in His world ..... כל מה שברא הקדוש ברוך הוא בעולמו.  
 He created only for His honor ..... לא בראו אלא לכבודו  
 As it says "Everything is called by My name, and I ..... שנאמר "כל הנקרא בשמי  
 created it for My honor; I shaped it and I made it." ..... ולכבודי, בראתיו יצרתיו אף עשיתיו"



**P O I N T S T O P O N D E R**

1. Everything in creation is a tool to see the greatness of ה'.
2. If we look at the world properly and do not take things for granted, we can be inspired by the glory of ה'.



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