

בס"ד

**The Centrality of Mitzvot bein Adam le-Chaveiro**  
*Source Sheet by Lea New Minkowitz (via Sefari.org)*

**Pirkei Avot 1:2**

**משנה אבות א'ב'**

(2) Shimon the Righteous was from the remnants of the Great Assembly. He would say, "**On three things the world stands: on the Torah, on the service (prayer) and on acts of loving kindness.**"

(ב) שִׁמְעוֹן הַצַּדִּיק הָיָה מִשְׁרְי כְּנֶסֶת הַגְּדוֹלָה. הוּא הָיָה אוֹמֵר, עַל שְׁלֹשָׁה דְבָרִים הָעוֹלָם עוֹמֵד, עַל הַתּוֹרָה וְעַל הָעֲבוּדָה וְעַל גְּמִילוּת חַסְדִּים:

- On what three things does the world stand?
- Why do you think gmilut chassadim is one of the "pillars" of the world?

**משנה אבות ג'י"ז**

(יז) רַבִּי אֱלֵעָזָר בֶּן עֲזַרְיָה אוֹמֵר, אִם אֵין תּוֹרָה, אֵין דֶּרֶךְ אֶרֶץ. אִם אֵין דֶּרֶךְ אֶרֶץ, אֵין תּוֹרָה.

- Translate this mishna to the best of your ability. Record the meaning of this text below (Use Google Translate)
- Describe the relationship between Torah and Derech Eretz, according to this

mishna.

- Why do you think the relationship is so interlinked?

### Shabbat 31a:6

There was another incident involving one gentile (non-Jew) who came before Shammai and said to Shammai: **Convert me on condition that you teach me the entire Torah while I am standing on one foot.** Shammai pushed him away... The same gentile came before Hillel. He (Hillel) converted him and said to him: That which is hateful to you do not do to another; that is the entire Torah, and the rest is its interpretation. **Go study.**

### שבת ל"א א"ו'

שוב מעשה בגוי אחד שבא לפני שמאי אמר לו גירני על מנת שתלמדני כל התורה כולה כשאני עומד על רגל אחת דחפו באמת הבנין שבידו בא לפני הלל גייריה אמר לו דעלך סני לחברך לא תעביד זו היא כל התורה כולה ואידך פירושה הוא זיל גמור

- What do you think that Hillel meant when he said that this is "the entire Torah" ? Was he being literal? Explain

**A Story from the Talmud that Illustrates the Need for Both**

We are told numerous times that the study of Torah is insufficient if it is not accompanied by acts of **chesed (loving kindness)**. The Talmud (Avodah Zarah 17b) relates the story of Rabbi Chanina Ben Teradyon and Rabbi Elazar ben Parta, who were arrested by the Roman authorities at the same time. Rabbi Chanina tells his cellmate that although Rabbi Elazar was being held on account of five counts of anti-Roman activity and Rabbi Chanina was arrested on one, Rabbi Elazar was the one who would be saved because he had involved himself in both Torah and *chesed*, unlike Rabbi Chanina, who had engaged only in Torah. The Talmud goes on to explain that, in fact, Rabbi Chanina was the *gabbai tzedaka*, the one in charge of charitable funds and thus heavily involved in feeding the poor and needy; nevertheless, he did not do *chesed* to the degree expected of a man of his stature, and he was therefore held accountable. (Rav Binyamin Zimmerman)

**Why is studying the Torah not enough? Explain the connection between this story and the importance of chesed in our lives.**

Why Must We Be Kind to Others? Finally, The Logic Behind it All

בראשית א': כ"ו-כ"ז

(כו) וַיֹּאמֶר אֱלֹהִים נַעֲשֵׂה אָדָם בְּצַלְמֵנוּ כְּדְמוּתֵנוּ וַיְרִדוּ בְדִגְתַּי הַיָּם וּבְעוֹף הַשָּׁמַיִם וּבַבְּהֵמָה וּבְכָל־הָאָרֶץ וּבְכָל־הָרֶמֶשׂ הָרֹמֵשׂ עַל־הָאָרֶץ: (כז) וַיְבָרָא אֱלֹהִים אֶת־הָאָדָם בְּצַלְמוֹ בְּצַלְמֵם אֱלֹהִים בָּרָא אֹתוֹ זָכָר וּנְקֵבָה בָּרָא אֹתָם:

**Genesis 1:26-27**

(26) And God said, **“Let us make man in our image, after our likeness.** They shall rule the fish of the sea, the birds of the sky, the cattle, the whole earth, and all the creeping things that creep on earth.”  
 (27) **And God created man in His image, in the image of God He created him;** male and female He created them.

**What do you think it means to be created in someone’s image? Does being**

created in someone's image mean that you are the same as they are?

Why do you think the Torah tells us that Adam (and by extension his descendants — all people) were created in the image of God?

### Imitating G-d Through Our Actions

Jeremiah 9:22-23

(22) Thus said the LORD: Let not the wise man glory in his wisdom; Let not the strong man glory in his strength; Let not the rich man glory in his riches. (23) But only in this should one glory: In his earnest devotion to Me. **For I the LORD act with kindness, Justice, and equity in the world; For in these I delight —declares the LORD.**

ירמיהו ט':כ"ב-כ"ג

(כב) כֹּה אָמַר ה' אֱלֹהֵי־יִתְהַלֵּל חָכֵם  
בְּחָכְמָתוֹ וְאֱלֹהֵי־יִתְהַלֵּל הַגִּבּוֹר בְּגִבּוֹרָתוֹ  
אֱלֹהֵי־יִתְהַלֵּל עֹשִׂיר בְּעִשְׂרוֹ: (כג) כִּי  
אִם־בְּזָאת יִתְהַלֵּל הַמִּתְהַלֵּל לַשָּׂכֵל וְיָדַע  
אוֹתִי כִּי אֲנִי ה' עֹשֶׂה חֶסֶד מִשְׁפָּט וְצְדָקָה  
בְּאֶרֶץ כִּי־בְאֵלֶּה חֲפָצְתִּי נֹאמֶ־ה': (0)

- According to this text, what are the things that Hashem cares about?
- How can make changes in your own life to ensure that your are acting in G-ds image ?

**Mazal Tov!**

4. בְּרוּךְ אַתָּה יְיָ אֱלֹהֵינוּ מֶלֶךְ הָעוֹלָם, אֲשֶׁר יָצַר אֶת הָאָדָם בְּצַלְמוֹ, בְּצַלְמֵ דְמוּת. תְּבַנֵּיתוּ, וְהִתְקִין לוֹ מִמֶּנּוּ בְּנֵי עֲדֵי עַד: בְּרוּךְ אַתָּה יְיָ, יוֹצֵר הָאָדָם.

At a Jewish wedding, seven blessings are recited, including this one which celebrates Hashem as having created humans in Hashem's own eternal image.

**Why do you think that this blessing is recited at weddings?**

In four-five sentences respond to the following question:

**Explain the connection between Gemilut Chasadim and marriage. How can these concepts and teachings enrich our relationships?**