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# Pirkei Avot

Living with Jewish Values and Ethics

Learning Campaign Source Sheet

## CHAPTER 3

### On Fate and Free-Will

#### Pirkei Avot 3:15

הַכֹּל צָפוּי, וְהָרְשׁוּת נְתוּנָה, וּבְטוֹב הָעוֹלָם נִדּוֹן. וְהַכֹּל לְפִי רֵב הַמַּעֲשֵׂה:

Everything is foreseen yet freedom of choice is granted, And the world is judged with goodness; And everything is in accordance with the preponderance of works.

#### Pirkei Avot 3:17

רַבִּי אֶלְעָזָר בֶּן עֲזַרְיָה אוֹמֵר, אִם אֵין תּוֹכָה, אֵין דֶּרֶךְ אֶרֶץ. אִם אֵין דֶּרֶךְ אֶרֶץ, אֵין תּוֹכָה. אִם אֵין קֶמֶח, אֵין תּוֹכָה...

Rabbi Elazar ben Azariah said: Where there is no Torah, there is no right conduct; where there is no right conduct, there is no Torah.... Where there is no bread, there is no Torah.

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Learning Campaign Discussion Questions:

## CHAPTER 3

### On Fate and Free-Will

- 01 How is it simultaneously possible that “everything is foreseen” while “freedom of choice is granted”?
- 02 What are our responsibilities for building a future we may never see, with consequences we are unable to anticipate?
- 03 What feels impossible right now that might not be impossible?