



Pirkei Avot

Living with Jewish Values and Ethics

Learning Campaign Source Sheet

CHAPTER 6

Approaches to Acquiring Jewish Wisdom

Pirkei Avot 6:2

וְהַלְחֹת מַעֲשֵׂה אֱלֹהִים הִמָּה וְהַמִּכְתָּב מִכְתָּב אֱלֹהִים הוּא תְּרוּת עַל הַלְחֹת, אֶל
תִּקְרָא תְּרוּת אֶלָּא חֲרוּת, שְׁאִין לָךְ בֶּן חוּרִין אֶלָּא מִי שְׁעוּסֵק בְּתַלְמוּד תּוֹרָה.
And it says, “And the tablets were the work of God, and the writing
was the writing of God, graven upon the tablets” (Exodus 32:16). Read
not haruth [‘graven’] but heruth [‘freedom’]. For there is no free man
but one that occupies himself with the study of the Torah.

Pirkei Avot 6:6

וְהַתּוֹרָה נִקְנִית בְּאַרְבָּעִים וּשְׁמֹנֶה דְּבָרִים.
Torah can be acquired in forty-eight ways.

Pirkei Avot 6:11

רַבִּי חֲנִנְיָא בֶּן עֲקָשָׁי אָמַר, רָצָה הַקָּדוֹשׁ בְּרוּךְ הוּא לְזַכּוֹת אֶת יִשְׂרָאֵל, לְפִיכָה
הָרַבָּה לָהֶם תּוֹרָה וּמִצְוֹת, שֶׁנֶּאֱמַר (ישעיה מב) ה' חָפֵץ לְמַעַן צִדְקוֹ יַגְדִּיל תּוֹרָה
וְיֵאדָיר:

Whatever the Holy Blessed One created in His world, he created only
for His glory, as it is said: “All who are linked to My name, whom I have
created, formed and made for My glory” (Isaiah 43:7), And it says: “The
Lord shall reign for ever and ever” (Exodus 15:18).

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LEARN WITH
Rabbi Hershel Lutch



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Learning Campaign Discussion Questions:

CHAPTER 6

Approaches to Acquiring Jewish Wisdom

- 01 Pirkei Avot is, predominantly, a collection of moral wisdom from our sages that has retained deep and practical meaning for almost 2,000 years. Why do you think that is?
- 02 Why is selflessness a supernal religious value? What does selflessness look like in our relationships with our parents, siblings, and children? What does selflessness look like in our relationship with G-d?
- 03 How do the ethical life-frameworks of Pirkei Avot become manifest in daily living? How can the details of the mitzvot, the Divine commandments, help concretize and systematize these ideals?