

The Dee Pirkei Avot Project

יְהוֹשֻעַ בֶּן פְּרַחְיָה וְנִיטַי הָאַרְבֵּלִי קִבְּלוּ מֵהֵם. יְהוֹשֻעַ בֶּן פְּרַחְיָה אָמַר, עֲשֵׂה לָךְ רַב, וּקְנֵה לָךְ חֵבֵר, וְהָיִי דָן אֶת כָּל הָאָדָם לְכַף זְכוּת:
Joshua ben Perahiah and Nittai the Arbelite received [the oral tradition] from them. Joshua ben Perahiah used to say: appoint for yourself a Rav, and acquire for yourself a friend and judge everybody favourably.

This week's Mishna provides three pieces of advice that may initially appear random and disjointed.

First, "Make for yourself a rav". Some suggest that this means finding a knowledgeable and experienced person who can guide you in your torah studies, helping you to tackle the most challenging questions and deepen your understanding. Someone like this will not only enhance your love for learning but also for Torah itself. Others, however, suggest that the Rav is a more of a spiritual mentor, a person who will provide support and companionship and help to overcome any loneliness or confusion. This is a person who can guide you in your journey of serving God, *avodat hashem*.

Second, when the Mishna says to "buy yourself a friend", it obviously doesn't mean purchasing with money. Instead, it emphasises investing time, effort and emotional openness in building meaningful and lasting relationships. Just as a significant purchase requires research, commitment and upkeep, true friendships need consistent investment of time, to nourish and nurture the connection and deepen the bond.

The third piece of advice is to "judge every person favourably." We may, at times, find it difficult to navigate relationships with others, but the Mishna advises us to avoid quick judgments based on a single action and instead to see people as a whole. By considering their personality, hardships, and experiences, we perceive them in a more favourable light. Rabbi Nachman suggests that identifying something positive in someone we may be struggling with can lead to kinder interactions and a more positive approach.

What links all of these pieces of advice is the idea that everyone needs individuals in their lives who will support and encourage them. While it can be challenging to find these individuals, the Mishna is offering us guidance on how to seek out a friend and mentor, and how we in turn, can enhance the lives of others.

Discussion Points:

Do I have a friend that I can see particularly invests in their friendships and which of their traits could I emulate?

Is it really possible to "judge every person favourably" in every single situation?
Between Pesach and Shavout there is a custom to learn Pirkei Avot. Does discussing ethics/morals make one more prepared for receiving the torah?

Idea by Rabbanit Naama Frankel, Rosh Beit Midrash of Lindenbaum Lod where Maia Dee studied

לעילוי נשמת:

לאה בת רפאל הכהן וציפורה

מאיה אסתר בת הרב אריה מרדכי ולאה

רינה מרים בת הרב אריה מרדכי ולאה

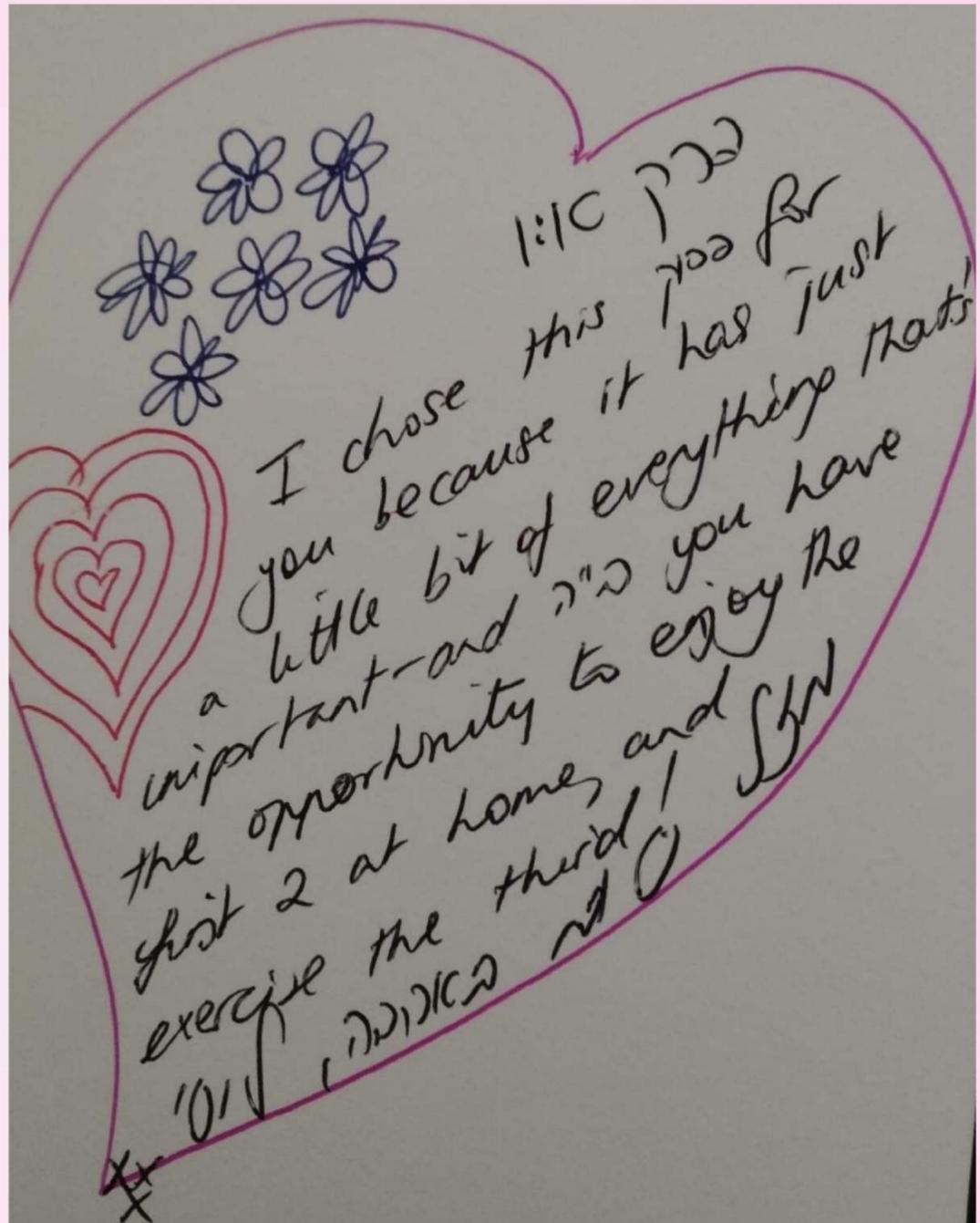


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At a family friend's bat mitzvah a few years ago, the women in attendance were asked to choose any Mishna from Pirkei Avot and to write a note about why they chose it, to give to the bat mitzvah girl. Lucy Dee chose this week's Mishna 1:6.

Lucy wrote; I chose this Passuk because it has just a little bit of everything that's important - and Be'ezrat Hashem you have the opportunity to enjoy the first 2 at home, and exercise the third!

Mazal tov!
Love, Lucy



In classic Lucy style, she was the only person to personalise her note; adding flowers and colours.

It really does speak to the person that she was, always going the extra mile to make somebody else feel special. Lucy epitomises the type of person that this mishne advises us to aspire to be; someone who invests time and effort into her relationship, making the people around her feel special.

We hope that the learning this week is all the more meaningful, knowing that it particularly resonated with Lucy.

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The Dee

Pirkei Avot Project

יהושע בן פרחיה ונתאי הארבל קבלו מהם. יהושע בן פרחיה אומר,
עשה לך רב, וקנה לך חבר, והוי דן את כל האדם לכף זכות:

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