

# The Dee

## Pirkei Avot Project

**שִׁמְעוֹן הַצַּדִּיק הָיָה מְשִׁירֵי כְּנֶסֶת הַגְּדוֹלָה. הוּא הָיָה אוֹמֵר, עַל שְׁלֹשָׁה דְבָרִים הָעוֹלָם עוֹמֵד, עַל הַתּוֹרָה וְעַל הָעֲבוּדָה וְעַל גְּמִילוּת חַסְדִּים:**  
 Shimon the Righteous was one of the last of the men of the great assembly. He used to say: the world stands upon three things: the Torah, the [Temple] service, and upon acts of loving-kindness.

Shimon HaTzadik was the *Cohen Gadol* (high priest) during the second Temple Period who taught us that the world stands on these three things. According to Rabbeinu Yonah, the very purpose of creation was for human beings to take action to fulfil these foundations and in doing so, find favour with Hashem. It is our mission to achieve a perfect universal balance; these three key principles have been, are and always will be the guiding light for us. The Mishna can also be interpreted on a personal level; fine-tuning our Torah learning in the pursuit of knowledge (*Torah*), fulfilment of mitzvot (*avodah*) and improving our character by doing good things (*gemilut chassadim*) leads us towards our individual purpose.

*Gemilut chassadim* (acts of loving-kindness) are unique in that the only prerequisite is human interaction, at no cost. In contrast to *tzedakah* (charity), *gemilut chassadim* is not limited to the giving of time, money or resources – such activities are accessible to all. Being engaged in *gemilut chassadim* means looking out for others' needs, being inclusive, using your words kindly, spreading positivity... it can be as simple as a smile or saying 'Shabbat Shalom' to a stranger on the street. Through these small but significant deeds, we uplift ourselves, enhancing our own lives and the lives of those around us.

With infinite opportunities for *gemilut chassadim*, let's strive to maximise every interpersonal interaction as well as to learn Torah and serve Hashem in the most fitting ways. Viewing life through the lenses of these three aspects, we can refine ourselves each and every day and work towards our purpose as individuals.

### Discussion points:

How do I pursue learning of Torah, serving Hashem and *gemilut chassadim*? How can I progress in each of these aspects?

Is there one of the three that I connect to the most, why is this?

What is an act of *gemilut chassadim* that I can take on this week?

Idea by Dalia Bornstein

### לעילוי נשמת:

לאה בת רפאל הכהן וציפורה

מאיה אסתר בת הרב אריה מרדכי ולאה

רינה מרים בת הרב אריה מרדכי ולאה

היום שלושה ועשרים יום שהם שלושה שבועות ושני ימים לעומר



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Idea by Dalia Bornstein, friend of Maia

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