

The Dee Pirkei Avot Project

Dedicated
to those who have tragically been murdered,
for the safe return of those missing or held hostage,
for the refuah of those injured,
the continued strength and bravery of our chyalim in the IDF
and safety of all those in our homeland of Israel.

הוא הִיה אומר, הִילודים לְמוֹת, וְהַמְתִּים לְהַחְיוֹת, וְהַחַיִּים לְדוֹן. יֵלֶדֶע לְהוֹדִיעַ וְלִהְיוֹדֵעַ שְׁהוּא אֵל, הוּא הַיּוֹצֵר, הוּא הַבוֹרֵא, הוּא הַמְבִּין, הוּא הַדֵּין, הוּא עֵד, הוּא בַעַל דִּין, וְהוּא עֵתִיד לְדוֹן. בְּרוּךְ הוּא, שְׁאִין לְפָנָיו לֹא עוֹלָה, וְלֹא שְׂכָחָה, וְלֹא מְשׂוּא פָּנִים, וְלֹא מִקַּח שָׂחָד, שְׁהַכֵּל שְׁלוֹ. וְדַע שְׁהַכֵּל לְפִי הַחֲשָׁבוֹן. וְאַל יִבְטִיחֶךָ יְצִרְךָ שְׁהַשְׂאוֹל בֵּית מְנוּס לָהּ, שְׁעַל כְּרַחֲךָ אֶתָּה נּוֹצֵר, וְעַל כְּרַחֲךָ אֶתָּה נוֹלָד, וְעַל כְּרַחֲךָ אֶתָּה חַי, וְעַל כְּרַחֲךָ אֶתָּה מֵת, וְעַל כְּרַחֲךָ אֶתָּה עֵתִיד לְתַן דִּין וְחֲשָׁבוֹן לְפָנָי מֶלֶךְ מַלְכֵי הַמְּלָכִים הַקְּדוֹשׁ בְּרוּךְ הוּא:

He would say: Those that are born will die, and those that are dead will be revived, and the living will be judged. [It is necessary] to know, to make known, and to become conscious that He is God, He is the Maker, He is the Creator, He is the Understander, He is the Judge, He is the Witness, He is the Litigant, and He is destined to judge. Blessed be He, who has before Him no wrong, no forgetfulness, no respect of persons, no taking of bribes, for all is His. And know that everything is according to the reckoning. And do not let your [evil] impulse assure you that the netherworld is a place of refuge for you; because against your will you were created, and against your will you were born, and against your will you live, and against your will you die, and against your will you are destined to give account and reckoning before the King of kings, the Holy One, blessed be He.

Rabbi Eliezer HaKapar is making a critical point at this final Mishnah of this Perek: We will be judged for our actions and there's no way to avoid this, no way at all. We might want to believe that the "netherworld" (i.e. This World) is a place of refuge (i.e. a final destination), but when we will die we will certainly have to report to our Maker and account for our deeds (in the World to Come).

It is as if Rabbi Eliezer is anticipating our question, "But... surely I can avoid this?" as he goes on to state, "Against your will you were created, born and live, and against your will you will die and have to give an account to Hashem."

It is human nature to believe that we have control over our lives. When we are young we might anticipate getting married at 25, having three children, living in Manhattan, working as an accountant for 40 years and then retiring in Florida. But do we actually know when or where we will meet our spouse, how many children we will be blessed with, what their special needs may be, where we may have to live for work, or indeed what career we will end up being fortunate enough to pursue? In fact, almost none of the big aspects of our lives are under our exclusive control.

In fact, a better model of our reality is that of a computer game. The game offers us one challenge after another and our job is to make the right decision at each challenge. In life it is to make the moral decision. And then, at the end of the game, we get our final score (our judgement) in the World to Come.

Discussion Questions:

What are / were your expectations of life (family, career, etc) when you are / were 18 years old? How much are they under your control?

Is it always possible to make the most "moral decision", or do the circumstances sometimes prevent us from doing this? Can you think of an example in your life?

Benjamin Franklin once said that nothing is certain except "death and taxes." Can thinking about death focus us on making any different choices during our lives?

Idea by Rabbi Leo Dee

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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הוא ה'ה אומר, הילודים למות, והמתים להחיות, והחיים לדון. לידע להודיע ולהודע שהוא אל, הוא היוצר, הוא הבורא, הוא המבין, הוא הדין, הוא עד, הוא בעל דין, והוא עתיד לדון. ברוך הוא, שאין לפניו לא עולה, ולא שכחה, ולא משוא פנים, ולא מקח שחד, שיהכל שלו. ודע שיהכל לפי החשבון. ואל יבטיחך יצרך שהשאל בית מנוס לך, שעל כרחך אתה נוצר, ועל כרחך אתה נולד, ועל כרחך אתה חי, ועל כרחך אתה מת, ועל כרחך אתה עתיד לתן דין וחשבון לפני מלך המלכים הקדוש ברוך הוא:

He would say: Those that are born will die, and those that are dead will be revived, and the living will be judged. [It is necessary] to know, to make known, and to become conscious that He is God, He is the Maker, He is the Creator, He is the Understander, He is the Judge, He is the Witness, He is the Litigant, and He is destined to judge. Blessed be He, who has before Him no wrong, no forgetfulness, no respect of persons, no taking of bribes, for all is His. And know that everything is according to the reckoning. And do not let your [evil] impulse assure you that the netherworld is a place of refuge for you; because against your will you were created, and against your will you were born, and against your will you live, and against your will you die, and against your will you are destined to give account and reckoning before the King of kings, the Holy One, blessed be He.

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Missing or Held Hostage:

Itai ben Michal Zipporah
 Rivka Levy
 סביון חן בת רבקה
 רינת זגדון
 אביה בת יפעת
 Sharona shmunis harel
 Itai zamir
 Ben Menashe Ben Dikla
 יובל בוים
 ענר אליקים בן שירה
 אליסף בן פורת , גבריאל בראל
 Gal Navon (Gal Ben Naama)
 עווד בן בלהה , יוכבד בת לאה
 אבינתן בן דיצה תרצה
 Ben Shimoni
 הירש בן שרה
 אבינתן בן דיצה תרצה
 מיכאל בן רחל
 עילי עזר בן אפרת
 עידן אלכסנדר בן יעל
 נריה בן שרון
 מוריה בת סנדרה
 יהונתן בן לימור
 דביר חיים בן רוית
 הדר בת גליה
 אליהו בן בת שבע
 בועז מנשה בן עטרה
 אלקנה בוחבוט בן רוחמה
 שגיא בן נעמית
 דור בן דורית
 תומר שגב
 אברהם בן רפאל
 אורי בן סיגלית
 אוריאל ביבי בן יעל ג'וליה
 אושר בן רחל
 איתמר בן מיכל
 רינת הודיה בת מיכולה
 הירש גולדברג פולין
 Adi Margalit bat Elka Chana
 עומר מקסים בן אורנה אסתר ורון
 doreen attias bat tali
 אופיר אנגל
 נעמה בת איילת
 איתי בן חגית
 תמיר בן חרות
 שגיא בן נעמית
 Matan ben Anat

Ada bat Esther
 Adi bat Shoshan
 Adina bat Eida
 Agam Ben Chen
 Alma bat Yonat
 Amelia bat Daniella
 Avigail bat Smadar
 Aviva bat Golit
 Chana bat Jesse
 Chana bat Rivka
 Chen bat Giora
 Clara bat Tanya
 Dafna bat Maayan
 Danielle bat Rivka
 Ditzza bat Leah Heiman
 Doron Bat Efrat
 Eitan ben Batsheva
 Ella bat Maayan
 Elma bat Leah
 Emma bat Sharon
 Emily bat Narkis
 Erez Ben Hadas
 Gal Ben Chen
 Gavriela bat Tanya
 Hagar Brodetz
 Hila bat Raaya
 Karina bat Eera
 Keren bat Rut
 Margalit bat Lita
 Maya bat Gavriella
 Maya bat Mirit Regev
 Meirav bat Rachel
 Mika bat Karina
 Naveh ben Adi
 Noam bat Sharone
 Noam ben Yonat
 Noga bat Shiri
 Ofelia bat Rosinta
 Ofry bat Hagar
 Ohad Ben Keren
 Or ben Renana
 Ori ben Hagar
 Rimon bat Avital
 Roni ben Marina
 Ruth bat Chedva
 Sahar bat Hadas
 Sharon bat Rivka
 Sharon bat Ruti
 Shiri bat Tamar
 Shoshan bat Rina
 Tal Ben Chen
 Tamar Metzger
 Yaffa bat Tova
 Yagil ben Renana
 Yahel Neri bat Adi
 Yuli bat Sharon
 Yuval ben Karina
 Yuval Ben Hagar

L'ilui Nishmat:

אריאל בן אחיה ועידית אליהו הי"ד
 רועי ויזר
 רועי חיים בן נעמי וישראל
 תומר בן מיכל
 Yishai ben Yitzchak
 Avraham Ben Yaffa
 חנן (חנניה) בן יולנדה
 יונתן צור בן רבקה
 Nathanel Abraham Shalom ben Nahoum Maimon
 ישי בן ענבל
 רועי חיים בן ישראל מאיר ונעמי
 אור מלכה
 Ro'ee Ben yaron
 אריה בן דבורה
 Sgt. Roey Chaim Ben Yisrael Meir
 מתן בן מירי וארז
 רועי חיים בן נעמי וימי
 אריאל בן אחיה ועידית
 יוסף מרדכי בן דינה
 אלחנן קלמנזון
 אריאל בן עידית ואחיה
 דביר חיים בן ישראל עמיחי
 יוסף מלאכי בן דינה ודוד
 דביר חיים בן ישראל עמיחי
 יהונתן אהרון שטינברג
 Paul Kessler
 Sharona shumnit harel
 אלחנן אריאל בן יהודה הי"ד
 Elisheva Rose Ida Lubin
 לורן בת חוה
 אוריה בן ריטה
 Daniel Shimon ben Doron
 Zecharia Pesach ben Aharon Baruch
 ilan Cohen
Refuah:
 יונתן צבי בן שרון
 מיחי שמעון בן בתיה
 איתי בן לוי
 מיכאל בן אסתר
 יאיר בן דרורה
 נתנאל בן חיה אסתר
 עמיחי שמעון בן בתיה
 יאיר יונה בן דרורה ציפורה מלכה
 Kinneret D
 Hadar bat Galiya
 ענר שפירא
 Natalie
 בת יהודית and יהודית בת תמר
 נועה בת עדי מרציאנו
 נבו בן מירב
 דביר בן אורית
 יונה בצלאל בן חוה שושנה
 Shlomo Yair Chaim Ben Gittle Sara
 רז בן דליה
 Yonatan tzvi Ben Sharon
 Nadav Ephraim Ben Shulamit Leah
 יאיר בן דרורה

These lists are not comprehensive and only include names sent by people connected to this project. We pray for the welfare of those released from captivity (who may be in the hostage list). May our learning be in the zechut of ALL those in need in Israel.