

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 chayalim in the IDF
and safety of all those in our homeland of Israel.

**אַרְבַּע מִדּוֹת בְּיוֹשְׁבֵי לִפְנֵי חֲכָמִים. סָפּוֹג, וּמְשִׁיפָה, מְשַׁמֶּרֶת, וְנֹפֶה. סָפּוֹג, שֶׁהוּא
סוֹפֵג אֶת הַכֹּל. מְשִׁיפָה, שֶׁמְכַנִּיס בָּזוּ וּמוֹצִיא בָּזוּ. מְשַׁמֶּרֶת, שֶׁמוֹצִיָּא אֶת הַיַּיִן
וְקוֹלֶטֶת אֶת הַשְּׂמֵרִים. וְנֹפֶה, שֶׁמוֹצִיָּא אֶת הַקֶּמַח וְקוֹלֶטֶת אֶת הַסֵּלֶת:**

There are four temperaments among those who sit before the sages: the sponge, the funnel, the strainer, and the sieve. The sponge because it absorbs everything. The funnel because it lets in at [one end] and lets out at [the other]. The strainer because it lets the wine out and retains the sediment. The sieve because it lets out the coarse [inferior] flour and retains the fine flour.

Everyone has their own unique learning style, based on their individual personality, their shoshana haneshama and their particular circumstances. Therefore, successful education cannot be a 'one size fits all' affair. Our Mishna discusses the learning experiences of different types of students and classifies them into four basic categories. The Seforno explains that the reason that the Mishna does this is so that we can find solutions to be able to reach each and every student to ensure that they have the most productive learning experience possible. Such categorisations are therefore necessary so that the teacher doesn't end up trying to fit a square peg into a round hole.

Why does the Mishna need to list these four types before repeating them and elaborating on their particular qualities?

The Medrash Shmuel suggests that this is to teach us that there is no 'ideal' type of student or indeed ideal learning style. Each one of these categories has advantages and disadvantages.

1. The sponge may find it easy to absorb, but needs to be squeezed hard to release that absorption; as such, those who find it easy to learn may not be so well equipped to share that information with others unless they are really pressured to do so.

2. The funnel has the advantage of being able to direct the water to a specific place, but the disadvantage is that it may end up releasing all that it has, retaining nothing for itself.

3. The strainer may hear a complex shiur that contains some ideas that are valuable and others that are less so. They will then distil those ideas and share the more valuable ones with others, keeping the less valuable ones to themselves so as to present the shiur in the most positive light possible.

Conversely, this approach runs the risk of filtering out the more beneficial ideas and retaining the less valuable, perhaps more entertaining or superficial ones.

4. The sieve remembers the good stuff and forgets the poor material; this is highly advantageous in a world where we are constantly being bombarded with information and thus need to have excellent filters. On the other hand, they run the risk of sharing poor quality ideas that they have heard from others, causing them embarrassment, whilst retaining the good ideas for themselves, denying them the credit that is due.

Discussion questions:

Why do you think these students are described as 'those who sit before the wise'?

Which style most closely describes yourself? Which type would you like to be?

How many different ways could you teach this Mishna?

Idea by Rebbetzin Yael Roodyn

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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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 בויום
ענר אליקים בן שירה
אליסף בן פורת , גבריאל בראל
Gal Navon (Gal Ben Naama)
עודד 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
Ditza 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
Oria 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.