

# 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.

הַלּוֹמֵד מִחֲבֵרו פֶּרֶק אֶחָד אוֹ הִלָּכָה אֶחָת אוֹ פְּסוּק אֶחָד אוֹ דְּבַר אֶחָד אוֹ אָפֶּלּוֹ אוֹת אֶחָת, צָרִיךְ לְנַהוֹג בּוֹ כְּבוֹד, שֶׁכֵּן מְצִינוּ בְּדוֹד מֶלֶךְ יִשְׂרָאֵל, שֶׁלֹּא לִמַּד מֵאֲחִיתֹפֶל אֶלָּא שְׁנֵי דְּבָרִים בְּלִבָּד, קָרָאוּ רַבּוֹ אֱלוֹפוֹ וּמִידְעוֹ, שֶׁנֶּאֱמַר (תהלים נה) וְאַתָּה אֲנוֹשׁ כְּעֶרְכִּי אֱלוֹפִי וּמִידְעִי. וְהֵלֵא דְּבָרִים קָל וְחֹמֶר, וּמֵה דּוֹד מֶלֶךְ יִשְׂרָאֵל, שֶׁלֹּא לִמַּד מֵאֲחִיתֹפֶל אֶלָּא שְׁנֵי דְּבָרִים בְּלִבָּד קָרָאוּ רַבּוֹ אֱלוֹפוֹ וּמִידְעוֹ, הַלּוֹמֵד מִחֲבֵרו פֶּרֶק אֶחָד אוֹ הִלָּכָה אֶחָת אוֹ פְּסוּק אֶחָד אוֹ דְּבַר אֶחָד אוֹ אָפֶּלּוֹ אוֹת אֶחָת, עַל אֶחָת כְּמָה וְכְמָה שֶׁצָּרִיךְ לְנַהוֹג בּוֹ כְּבוֹד. וְאֵין כְּבוֹד אֶלָּא תוֹרָה, שֶׁנֶּאֱמַר (משלי ג) כְּבוֹד חֲכָמִים יִנְחֻלוֹ, (משלי כח) וְתַמִּימִים יִנְחֻלוֹ טוֹב, וְאֵין טוֹב אֶלָּא תוֹרָה, שֶׁנֶּאֱמַר (משלי ד) כִּי לֶקַח טוֹב נָתַתִּי לָכֶם תוֹרַתִּי אֵל תַּעֲזֹבוּ:

One who learns from his fellow one chapter or one law or one verse or one utterance or even one letter must treat him with honor, and we found it to be thus with David, King of Israel, who learned only two things from Achithophel, [yet] called him his teacher, his guide, and his intimate, as it is said (Psalms 55:14) "But it was you, a man my equal, my guide, and my intimate." And is it not a fortiori argument? If David, King of Israel, who only learned two things from Achithophel called him his teacher, his guide, and his intimate, how much more must one who learns one chapter or one law or one verse or one utterance or one letter from his fellow treat him with honor. And there is no honor except Torah, as it is said (Proverbs 3: 35) "The wise shall inherit honor," and "the whole-hearted shall inherit good" (Proverbs 28: 10), and there is no good except Torah as it is said (Proverbs 4:2) "I give you a good doctrine, do not forsake my Torah".

The text of this Mishnah teaches us to honor Torah teachers, following in the path of the esteemed and wise King David who honored his advisor Achitofel for teaching him two important lessons. What may smack us as surprising is that honor is due to someone who taught us even one Hebrew letter. First, why accord special honor to one who has shared with us such a seemingly minuscule lesson as just one letter? Second, how is that honor to be expressed? Reading “The Wisdom in the Hebrew Alphabet” by Rabbi Michael L. Munk, we can begin to appreciate the depth and insight of studying each Hebrew letter. Studying sacred Hebrew letters, even one, can become the irresistible urge to study the next one and so to begin a path of transformative Torah study. What kind of honor to give one who taught us even a letter? Perhaps to think of them in an elevated way, perhaps to thank them at various intervals of the year such as Simchat Torah and Shavuot, or as one in my previous congregation to whom I taught the Hebrew alphabet. If we were standing together, she would introduce me as the Rabbi who made her religious. Frankly, I did not. Others did. But it all began with one letter,

## Discussion Questions:

1. Why mention the other kinds of teaching categories that deserve honor, all more involved than teaching one letter, if even one letter taught deserves honor?
2. Achitofel betrays King David, and yet King David honors his former advisor for the two lessons learned from him. What can we learn from this?
3. Who are the teachers you most respect and admire and think of one lesson they taught that sticks with you now and how can you integrate them into your daily life?

Idea by Rabbi Elan Adler

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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מְצִינוּ בְּדוֹד מֶלֶךְ יִשְׂרָאֵל, שֶׁלֹּא לָמַד מֵאַחִיתֶּפֶל אֶלָּא שְׁנֵי דְּבָרִים בְּלֶבֶד, קָרָאוּ רַבּוֹ אֱלוֹפוֹ וּמִידְעוֹ, שֶׁנֶּאֱמַר (תהלים נה)  
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אַחַת, עַל אַחַת כַּמָּה וְכַמָּה שְׁצָרִיךְ לִנְהוֹג בּוֹ כְּבוֹד. וְאִין כְּבוֹד אֶלָּא תוֹרָה, שֶׁנֶּאֱמַר (משלי ג) כְּבוֹד חֲכָמִים יִנְחֵלוּ, (משלי  
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**Hostages in Gaza:**  
Alon ben Idit (Ohel)  
Ariel ben Sylvia (Konio)  
Avinathan ben Ditzza Tirtza (Or)  
Bar Avraham ben Julia (Kuperstein)  
Bipin Joshi  
David ben Sylvia (Konio)  
Edan ben Yael (Alexander)  
Eitan Avraham ben Efrat (Mor)  
Eitan ben Rut Eedit (Horn)  
Elkana ben Ruchama (Bohbot)  
Evyatar ben Galya (David)  
Gali ben Tamar (Berman)  
Guy ben Meirav (Gilboa-Dalal)  
Matan Shachar ben Anat (Angrest)  
Matan ben Einav (Zangauker)  
Maxim ben Tella (Herkin)  
Nimrod ben Vicky (Cohen)  
Omri ben Veronica Esther (Miran)  
Pinta Nattapong  
Rom ben Tamar Noa (Braslavski)  
Sasiwan Pankong  
Segev ben Galit (Kalfon)  
Tamir ben Cherut (Nimrod)  
Yosef Chaim ben Miriam (Ohana)  
Ziv ben Tamar (Berman)

**Refuah:**  
יונתן צבי בן שרון  
מיחי שמעון בן בתיה  
איתי בן ליז  
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  
Shlomo Yair Chaim Ben Gittle Sara  
רז בן דליה  
Yonatan tzvi Ben Sharon  
Nadav Ephraim Ben Shulamit Leah  
יאיר בן דרורה

**L'ilui Nishmat:**  
אריאל בן אחיה ועידית אליהו הי"ד  
רועי וייזר  
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

These lists are not comprehensive.

We pray for the welfare of those released from captivity, for them to recover their physical and mental wellbeing. We learn in memory of all those murdered in Hamas captivity.

May our learning be in the zechut of ALL those in need in Israel.