בס"ד

Introduction

It is with tremendous gratitude to Hashem that we present to you the second *sefer* by our *tochnit manhigut*. This time the focus *is* ***leadership lessons as learned from פרקי אבות***. We hope that the different articles will enrich and empower you to be a leader in your personal, family and community life.

**משנה מסכת אבות פרק ב**

משנה ח

"רבן יוחנן בן זכאי קבל מהלל ומשמאי הוא היה אומר אם למדת תורה הרבה אל תחזיק טובה לעצמך כי לכך נוצרת”

*Rav Yochanan Ben Zakai* taught that if one learned a large amount of Torah he should not “***machzeek tovah leatzmecha***” because that is what he was created for.

What is this warning? As an introduction to our second *sefer*, I want to focus on three ideas:

**Just Beginning….**

**פירוש רבינו יונה על אבות פרק ב משנה ח**

ח רבן יוחנן בן זכאי קבל מהלל ומשמאי הוא היה אומר אם עשית תורה הרבה אל תחזיק טובה וכו' - ועדיין אתה בתחלה ומתי תשיג עד האמצע ועד הסוף כי התורה ארוכה מארץ מדה ורחבה מני ים. ואין השגת האנוש יכולה להגיע אל הקצה האחרון. וכמה כל אדם מרוחק ממנו ואיך יחזיק טובה לעצמו ולא עשה תורה אחת מני אלף ממה שיש לו לעשות. כי לכך נוצרת.

**Rabbeinu Yona** stresses, why one should one not pat oneself on the back if one has learned much Torah? The *Torah* is so vast and wide; there is so much more to learn. One has just begun in this vast sea of Torah. Similarly, we have much to be proud for the many programs that we have created including our Montreal and Yemin Moshe Community Programs, Family Online Learning, Students of Jerusalem, Weekly Newsletter etc. and now our second Sefer; we are just at the beginning, as we believe that this is what we were created for.

**Responsibility not just a “Tovah”**

***The Maharal*** in his commentary *Derech Hachaim* explains the *Mishnah* as follows

"פירוש כי אין ראוי לאדם כאשר למד תורה הרבה שיחשוב שעשה דבר חסידות שהחסידות הוא שעושה דבר שאינו ראוי לפי הדין על זה אמר שאין הדבר כך שהאדם נברא מתחלת בריאתו על זה ללמוד תורה...."

One should not consider his learning *Torah* a “***tovah***”- a *chessed* that he is doing something not expected of him. This is man’s ***responsibility*** and the reason for his creation.

We see the ***Yeshivat Hakotel Leadership and Entrepreneurship Program*** and the yearly *sefer* in the same light. This is not some other extracurricular program. We view this as a God- Given responsibility to help develop and train leaders rooted in Torah to make an impact for *Am Yisrael* year after year.

**Share With Others**

A Final commentary I once saw is that when one learns Torah known in her essence as a ***Tovah*** "כי לקח **טוב** נתתי לכם תורתי אל תעזובו**" (**משלי ד:ב) , one cannot hold these precious pearls to oneself. Rather, one should share and teach others. The Torah is not one’s own personal possession; it was given to *Am* *Yisrael*. Our individual responsibility is to put our efforts and talents in to its depths in order to share and display its grandeur with everyone.

This Sefer is our sharing with others as we approach Mattan Torah. We were created not for *limmud* *torah* (learning) but for ***Talmud Torah*** (teaching and sharing with others(! May we be *zoche from the Ribbono shel Olam* to continue להגדיל תורה ויאדיר.

**Thank You’s**

* **הקב"ה בכבודו ובעצמו** שבאמת מוביל את הכול אין אנחנו מספיקים להודות לך
* The Rosh Yeshiva, Rav Baruch Weider *shlitah* and Motti Jerby the *Mankal* (CEO) who share the same vision of building leaders in *Am Yisrael*
* Aaron Rudolph who led the project with many editors along the way.
* Alumnus Yaakov Schiff who created the most beautiful graphic design for the sefer.
* The Schwalb family for their partnership in helping publish the sefer.
* Rav Reuven Taragin, Dean of the *Yeshivat Hakotel* overseas program, who leads with determination and vision that are unmatched.
* All the contributors to the sefer and the *Yeshivat Hakotel Tochnit Manhigut* including *Rabbanim*, *Talmidim* and Donors.

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