

PARDES PROJECT

One Thousand Homes of Dialogue

A T I M E T O

LOVE

O L E M I L A

[volume 1 / number 5]



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A T I M E T O
LOVE
O L E W I L V

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Volume 1 Number 5

Many of the topics included in the Pardes curriculum are far-reaching and have broad ramifications. The intent of Pardes is to promote sensitivity and spiritual growth through exposure to a variety of Torah sources. It is not within the purview of Pardes to arrive at conclusions relevant to decisions of Halacha. Please consult your Rabbi for personal decisions.

UNITED and UNTIED.

Two words with the same letters and opposite meanings. The only difference is where you put the "I".

How would you respond?

YOUR BEST FRIEND, WHO WAS ABUSED BY HER father as a child, tells you that her “personal nightmare” has finally ended. After years of anguish, she’s concluded that there is only one way to emotional health — she must learn to “hate” her father. Your friend, who seems relieved by her conclusion, asks for your opinion.



It is customary to recite the following prayer before entering into a Torah discussion:

(Shulchan Aruch O.H. 110)

May it be Your will, Hashem my G-d and G-d of my fathers, that You illuminate my eyes with the light of your Torah and that You save me from all stumbling blocks and errors, whether it be in discussions of what is prohibited and what is permitted or in monetary matters, whether it be in any other Halachic decisions or just in theoretical study. I pray that I do not make any mistakes, and if I do, my study partners should not take delight in them. I pray that I should not proclaim the impure pure or the pure impure, the permitted forbidden or the forbidden permitted. I pray that I should not derive joy from the errors of my study partner. Open my eyes and allow me to see the wonders of Your Torah because it is from G-d that all wisdom comes forth, it is from His mouth that I will acquire wisdom and understanding. Amen.

יהי רצון מלפניך ה' אלוקי
ואלוקי אבותי שלא יארע
דבר תקלה על ידי ולא
אכשל בדבר הלכה וישמחו
בי חברי ולא אומר על
טמא טהור ולא על טהור
טמא ולא על מותר אסור
ולא על אסור מותר ולא
יכשלו חברי בדבר הלכה
ואשמח בהם כי ה' יתן
חכמה מפיו דעות ותבונה.
אל עיני ואביטה נפלאות
מתורתך.

Points for Study

1 The Temple in Jerusalem represented the unity of Israel. The Temple served to unify the people. They were unified in one priest, one altar and for that matter only needed one Temple. When the Jews engaged in *causeless hate*, the antithesis of unity, the Temple no longer served a purpose and the people of Israel no longer deserved to have it standing. It was then that God destroyed it.

Maharal of Prague, Netzach Yisroel, chap. 4

Source, pg. 20

2 The Temple in Jerusalem, headquarters of the Jewish people, twice was built and destroyed because of our sins. The first Temple was destroyed because we worshipped foreign gods, committed incest and murdered. During the period of the second Temple we studied and kept the Mitzvot. The Temple was destroyed because of *causeless hate*. This teaches us that *causeless hate* is equal to murder, incest and idolatry.

Talmud Yoma 9b

Source, pg. 21

3 The consequences of the destruction of the second Temple were far worse than that of the destruction of the first Temple. During the period of

the first Temple in Jerusalem, although the people of Israel sinned they had good hearts and trusted in God. God destroyed the Temple because their actions were evil. During the period of the second Temple, although their actions were proper, God destroyed the Temple because their hearts were evil, which resulted in *causeless hate*. To worship God one must have a good heart.

*Vilna Gaon in Biur Hagra on Agadda of
Rami Bar Chama, Bava Batra
Source, pg. 22*

4 The second Temple is still not rebuilt. It is impossible to cure an illness if the cause of the disease is still present, even with the best medicine in the world.

*Reb Yonason Eybeshitz, Yeoras Dvash 7
Source, pg. 23*

5 Hate is the product of too much self-love.

Rav Kook, Toras Cohen, pg. 153

6 "*Causeless hate*"- If it's causeless, why do we do it? The reason is that the ego stands between us and doesn't let us see anything but ourselves. If I am egocentric, I feel only for myself and there is no room to feel for someone else. The presence of another individual threatens my space and becomes an interruption to my personal needs; therefore, I hate him.

*Heychultzu, Rabbi Shalom Dov Baer of Lubavitch
Source, pg. 24*

7 Loving a fellow Jew is only possible if one makes his physical needs secondary to his spiritual needs, for it is the body which serves as a divider between men.

*Sefer Harachim, vol. 1, pg. 618
Source, pg. 24*

8 "Love your neighbor like yourself" — Just as when we do something wrong we don't hate ourselves for it, so too, with our neighbors; when they do something wrong, we shouldn't hate them for it.

Ba'al Shem Tov

9 Some people who hate others justify their behavior by claiming that they are lovers of truth and the person they hate is false. In fact, a love of truth that manifests itself in hate of others is only imaginary. None of us are completely "true", yet we don't hate ourselves for it. Where is our love of truth when it comes to ourselves?

*Rebbe of Ozorov in Aish Dos,
Shaar Kedushas Yisroel
Source, pg. 25*

10 "If you see your enemy's donkey struggling under its load, you shall certainly help him" (*Shemos 23*). The enemy referred to in the Torah is a fellow Jew. How then is it permitted to hate a Jew? Doesn't the Torah say, "Do not hate your brother in your heart" (*Vayikra 19*)? Our sages say this refers to a case where you saw someone

sin, you warned him of his sin, and he continues anyway. It is a Mitzvah to hate this person.

Rambam, Laws of Murder, chap. 13; par. 14

Source, pg. 26

11 How should we react when a truly great man criticizes another very great man? We are forbidden to listen to him, even if he is the leader of the generation. Being that it is against the Torah, we are even forbidden to listen to a Prophet. If you are wondering how a Gadol HaDor can come to criticize other Torah giants, perhaps this comes from the sins of the generation, or God is testing us to see if we will follow him.

Reb Zvi Elimelech of Dinov in his commentary to the Hakdomo V'Derech Eitz Chaim, fn. 83

Source, pg. 27

12 If you will notice, most Mitzvot depend on love of mankind, i.e., charity, tithes, business ethics, interest and many more. Most of the character traits of God, i.e., mercy, patience, kindness, giving another person the benefit of the doubt, and many others that we must emulate, depend on attitudes and feelings towards another person. That is why loving one's fellow man is an essential rule of the Torah.

Shnei Luchos Habris, SHLAH, Letter Beis

Source, pg. 28

13 If you are tempted to hate another individual, even if you feel it is a Mitzvah to hate a particular person, ask yourself the following question: Are you happy with his downfall? If the answer is yes, then God does not want your hate. In the final analysis, there is almost no justification for hate. The Torah says, "Do not hate your brother in your heart." Those whom it is permissible to hate are almost non-existent. We should try to replace the emotion of hate with the virtue of love, which is a Mitzvah of the Torah. There is no difference between this Mitzvah and the Mitzvah of Tefilin or Tzitzit and staying away from non-kosher foods, except that the force of habit which we have acquired from childhood has reinforced these other Mizvot. When it comes to the Mitzvah of love, our development has been reversed, as we learn to fight with other children, etc. We need only reverse our habits.

Sefer HaMidos, Dubnow Magid,

Shaar Hasina, chap. 4

Source, pg. 29

Source Biography

Prepared by Ari Bergman

Maharal of Prague (1525-1609)

Rabbi Judah Loew ben Bezalel was a renowned talmudist, kabbalist, ethical teacher, and mathematician. Much of his work was in extracting the inner meaning of aggada to find a deeper philosophical and moralistic understanding of the Gemara. His piety and knowledge made him popular within the Jewish as well as non-Jewish world of sixteenth century Prague.

The Vilna Gaon (1720-1797)

Rabbi Elijah ben Solomon Zalman, also known as Ha-Gra, was the foremost scholar-sage of Lithuanian Jewry in the eighteenth-century, and has become the spiritual forefather for much of the non-Chassidic yeshiva world. Known for his greatness in Talmudic and Kabbalistic study, he likewise mastered astronomy, mathematics and music. His system of Talmudic study focused on trying to find the true meaning intended by the sages in the text. The Gra was a fiercely outspoken opponent of Chassidism, fearing the movement would erode the centrality of Torah learning in Judaism, and was pivotal in galvanizing the split between the Chassidic and non-Chassidic world.

Rabbi Yonason Eybeshitz (1690-1764)

An exceptional Talmudist, Halachist and Kabbalist, Rabbi Eybeschitz held positions as dayan of Prague, and later rose to the position of Rabbi of the "Three Communities," Altona, Hamburg and Wandsbek. He had contacts with Christian leaders of the period, debating religious and philosophical topics with them. His position was challenged on a number of occasions following allegations that he was a secret follower of the Shabbateanism, an outlawed movement centered around the false messiah Shabtai Zvi, despite Rabbi Eybeshitz supporting the excommunication of all Shabbatean followers. The controversy over whether Rabbi Eybeshitz was a Shabbatean spread to all major Jewish communities, and attacks by opponents lasted until his death.

Rabbi Abraham Isaac HaCohen Kook (1865-1935)

Known as the "father of Religious Zionism", Rabbi Kook, a brilliant scholar and Jewish leader, was born in Latvia and emigrated to Palestine in 1904. After staying in London during the First World War, he returned to Palestine to become the first Ashkenazic chief rabbi of Palestine. His yeshiva, Merkaz Harav, focused on the study of religious texts dealing with the land of Israel, and issues relating to the Temple services. Seeing the growth

of Zionism as a stepping stone to the Messianic Age, Rav Kook developed close relationships with non-religious Zionists who he saw as being an integral part of the building of the land that was leading to the Redemption. Most other orthodox leaders were against the Zionist movement because of its predominantly secular nature. Rav Kook's teachings over settling the land have provided the basis for modern Religious Zionist ideology.

**Rabbi Shalom Dov Baer Schneerson
(1773-1827)**

The eldest son of Rabbi Shneur Zalman of Liady, who was the founder of Chabad Chassidism and had suffered the full force of the anti-Chassidic backlash, Reb Dov Baer became the leader of the Chabad dynasty after his father's death in 1813. He moved the group to the town of Lubavitch in Russia, after which the group became known. As a prolific writer, he expanded on the mystical works of his father, and helped to further differentiate the Chabad movement from other forms of Chassidism. Like his father, Reb Dov Baer was imprisoned by the Russian authorities after allegations by opponents, but was released soon after.

The Ba'al Shem Tov (1700-1760)

Rabbi Israel ben Eliezer, also known by the acronym the Besht, was the founder of the Chassidic

movement. Although little first-hand knowledge is known about the Besht, one source states that he spent much of his early years outside the traditional structure of Talmudic education, but did gain much knowledge of Jewish mysticism. He went on to serve as a teacher's assistant, elementary school instructor, and ritual slaughterer. After spending time in the Carpathian mountains, he went through a spiritual metamorphosis, and became an itinerant healer, and after experiencing profound spiritual illuminations from heavenly teachers, went on to become a charismatic leader that attracted many of the greatest scholars of the period. This close following are the only recorders of his teachings, the Besht himself never authoring a text. His new mystical philosophy placed Kabbalah and prayer as the center of Jewish observance, through which one could come to an ecstatic awareness of the Divine Spirit in every aspect of the world. As the Besht and his followers came soon after the episode of Shabtai Zvi, they met harsh opposition from traditionalists who feared another false messianic movement.

The Ozhorover Rebbe (1890-1971)

Rabbi Moshe Yechiel Ha-Levi Epstein lived in Ozhorov in Poland, in which he became the rabbi by the age of twenty five. After the Holocaust he moved to Tel Aviv in Israel, where he formed a

Chassidic group. His major works included an encyclopedia of Jewish thought called Aish Dos, and a ten volume work on the Chumash (bible) known as Be'er Moshe. Famous for his complete knowledge of the entire written and oral Torah perfectly, he was often described as a "sealed container that never loses a drop".

The Rambam (1135-1204)

Moses Maimonides is known as the greatest Jewish philosopher and codifier of Jewish law in history. Born in Cordova, Spain, he was forced to flee from fanatical Moslems at the age of thirteen, where he traveled with his family to North Africa, and ten years later to Palestine. As a result of the devastation left by the Crusaders, Palestine was virtually uninhabitable, forcing the family to move to Fostat (current day Cairo). Throughout these journeys, the young Maimonides had concentrated on Torah studies under the guidance of his father, and by the time he reached Fostat had become an famous scholar. Supported by his merchant brother, the Rambam was able to write copiously, gaining international acclaim in both Jewish and secular fields of knowledge. After the tragic death of his brother, the responsibility of supporting his family fell on the Rambam's shoulders, and through his fame he was appointed chief physician of the Sultan. Despite the immense workload that was required, not only with his responsibilities to the royal

family, but to the entire Egyptian community as the official Nagid (royally appointed leader), and to the halachic questions of world Jewry known as responsa, the Rambam was remarkably able to complete some of his greatest Jewish works, including his introduction and commentary on the Mishna, his philosophical work The Guide for the Perplexed, and his magnum opus the Mishna Torah - the great codification of all Jewish law. While he was considered an undisputed leader of world Jewry at the time, there was bitter opposition to much of his works because they incorporated much of Aristotelian philosophy that went against the traditional purist ideology of much of Ashkenazic Jewry, and others believed his codifications would make much of the role of the rabbi and the oral tradition obsolete.

Rabbi Zvi Elimelech Shapiro of Dinov (1783-1841)

A great scholar and Kabbalist of Galicia, who learned under many of the great Chassidic masters of the time, he produced works on all areas of Jewish study, and was accepted as one of the great leaders of Polish Jewry. Living at the beginning of the period of emancipation of European Jewry, Rabbi Shapiro was a critic and opponent of the Haskalah, a movement of Jews that wished to liberalize Jewish practice, and become fully part of the secular world.

The Shlah (1565-1630)

Rabbi Isaiah ben Avraham Ha-Levi Horowitz, known as the Shlah after the title of one of his major works *Shnei Luchos Ha-Bris*, was a renowned halachist, kabbalist and communal leader. Born in Prague he moved with his father to Poland in his youth, and after building a reputation as an exceptional scholar, he gained a number of positions as head of *beis dins* (religious courts) in the area. By 1606 he reached the level of the head of the Frankfort on the Main *beis din*, one of the most influential of the period. After the Jews were expelled from there in 1614, he returned to his native Prague, where he remained as a rabbi. In 1621 at the death of his wife, he moved to Eretz Israel, remarried and settled in Jerusalem as one of the heads of the Ashkenazic community there. In 1625 he was captured by the Arab ruler, and ransomed for an exorbitant sum. The Shlah died in Tiberius and is buried near the Rambam. During his life the Shlah was an wealthy and active philanthropist, supporting Torah learning especially in Jerusalem. In his many Kabbalistic, homiletic and halachic works, he stressed the joy in every action, and how one should convert the evil inclination into good, two concepts that impacted on Jewish thought through to the eighteenth-century, and greatly influenced the development of the Chassidic movement.

The Dubnow Maggid (1741-1804)

Born in a province of Vilna, Jacob ben Wolf Kranz showed exceptional homiletical and Kabbalistic talents at an early age, and by the age of twenty became the *darshan* of his city. From there he began preaching through the cities of around Lublin in Poland, finally settling in Dubnow. His reputation as a *maggid* (preacher) spread, bringing him in contact with the great rabbis of the period, including the Vilna Gaon. The majority of his works were in homiletics, using stories and parables to transmit deeper ethical and moral teachings.

4 Reb Yonason Eybeshitz, Yeoras Dvash 7

יגדל

3. **דוד**

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קמה

ונגלה עונו, כי בעובם ידע, חסאם לגנוס חמיר.
 ולכן שסור מלעשות, אף ה' ידחם עליהם, הכביתים
 לגאולם מחר במקידת שכעים שזה ונגלה קצאם.

1. The first step is to identify the problem. This involves understanding the current situation and the goals that need to be achieved.

2. The second step is to analyze the problem. This involves breaking down the problem into smaller, more manageable parts.

3. The third step is to develop a plan. This involves determining the steps that need to be taken to solve the problem.

4. The fourth step is to implement the plan. This involves putting the plan into action and monitoring progress.

5. The fifth step is to evaluate the results. This involves assessing the effectiveness of the solution and making adjustments as needed.

כן דובר אצלו. וזהו היה הוראלי שדי נתינת
יתרון לכלל תלמוד מרבית גדולות. ואמרו כי
אין חול על לשון הרע, יושב כגון וזהו בוודאי
לפרוץ ויפלו וזהו וזהם. עיר אלוף לתת חרב
נעמה, וכמד זה חביא הקה"ה עליהם גי מרמץ,
גי אשר לא רע לשון, את זה לצומת ער. ולכן
אמר הנביא מרמץ על שאלתו. הוא וזהו ער קצו
לחל חין ואמרו לא נשבעו, מה שלא היה כבי

[illegible]

ועתה בראי ובהמרה צרות חסופות הללו, אף
הזהיר בתם כל מחמדים מה שאין לשער, אבל
עצמות הדברים לשון הרע והשנאת חנם ומריל אח
היבדו בגדים, היה קצת שכיח בכם, וכל אנשי מין
שאר היו כפראג בציאותי משם יצרו, כי דרשתי
ועתה ראה, חזרו הרע חזר, אלא לאו קידה לכם חזי
מה רבם, כי רעה נני רשעים, והעונות הרבים לא

תמס כל לב, וייקא, לב טוב דע כנ"ל, בשם לבבך
דמו כל ידים וכו'.

ולכן כל צדדי בעבר אחרי בני ישראל, וחלילה
לנו לשנות דבר אחד מכלי שיתוך בעצמן,
ולדמות במחשבותינו כאלו אנחנו אנשים
עליזי נגד אבירי בקירדמות וחזירות שלמותנו. מול
החומר כל אחד לנו, ותרענני בני, ויתעני אחרי
החברים מחזירי עין, עד אשר עלינו חלילה לנו
ואין. גם אחר כך מגרשים אותנו, וחלו בני סבל
ובסבלו אין כל, ואיננו אנו מן הארצות, ולא
דבר לשנות ימין או שמאל. אולם זאת במחשבותינו
כאלו הדבר עצמם במעלה. הידוע כי חרדה עלינו
דפנה מאין הפנות, וירק הארץ והאיתן, וגם הדבר
יש אם אני יודעים מה חלילה לנו, ובמחשבותנו בנות.
ואחרי פצמנו ושרירי, אלא בלתי עשנו עשייתם.
ידישים בירח גדולה צרה ומצוקה, אוי שכן עליהם
לאחרי בימים, ולכן לא חפצנו בעצמי והשלה
כראי, והיא מצות עשה של חלילה לרעה מרובה
שנחלמה לאו דאורייתא, וכן בעת אשר נהיה
מחזקה להחלילה, אבל החלילה צריכה להיות בתום
לבב, והאופן לשפוט במעשים ולהסיר עין
מבטא:

ובשוב לחזיר לקשיית ידיות, למה תביא הקדוש
ברוך הוא יכיל בית שני גוי מרומן, אבל
ידוע מים תכשיט יצי ^לבית ארשן נעלה
שנים, תנחלה קצם, וכשיכל נחלה וסוף, לא
תנחלה קצם, ויש להבין מה חילול זה בזה, וכי
בשכיל תנחלה חזק יתגלה ויחיה הקץ מהר, וכן
אכל בבית שני ידוע חזק, במבואו יחיה ^לט
שמות חזק, ואי שכל נבחר, הוא בעלות ארבים
מתחלה בין בית שני, וקול חזק נתנחם תכני
קדוש

אבל הצנין כאמור (ספר בן) כשאדם דש בחטא,
נעשה לו בחינה ואינו מרגיש בחטא. אבל
כאשר יבא יומנו מגעת חטא, אז יחיי' בחינתו
ובחטא אשר חטא, ויפלו אשר מעל ביה ויבחרוהו.
וזהו במית ואשון, שיתעורר לעצמה אבל בגלות בכל,
ולא במה מאשר עשו. וזהו עבוד עזר עבודה ואם
הוא עבוד על גילוי עולות ומשכבות רשעים, וזהו

3 Vilna Gaon in Biur Hagra on Agadda of Rami Bar Chama, Bava Batra

ביאור דברי

[illegible]

6 Heychultzu, Rabbi Shalom Dov Baer of Lubavitch

"התלצר"

אבל ענין המדין והירב והשגחה... אינו מצד איות פרט כיא
ממני שאינו יכול לסבול את זולתו, גם שלא ידע כלל להאזינה
לו שום מרס עמו כי, ואיך להאמנה עמו כי, וזהו הנק
שנאמר ויבט שיהיה שורא אותה חנם על לא דבר כי.
[ולפעמים יש בזה גיב איות פרט, והדני עמו לו איות שגח
למה שזה שורא אותו כי, אבל זהו שיש לו איות ויחשיב
הוא ויחשיב ויחשיב... שם סיבת השגחה רק שמצא לו תראנה
ועלילה להוציאה את עצמו לפני זולתו לבד, אבל איות אחרונה

1. The first step is to identify the problem. This involves understanding the symptoms and the context in which they are occurring.

2. The second step is to gather information. This includes looking at the data, talking to the people involved, and reviewing any relevant documents.

3. The third step is to analyze the information. This involves looking for patterns, identifying the root cause, and determining the scope of the problem.

4. The fourth step is to develop a solution. This involves brainstorming ideas, evaluating the options, and choosing the best one.

5. The fifth step is to implement the solution. This involves putting the plan into action, monitoring progress, and making adjustments as needed.

6. The sixth step is to evaluate the results. This involves comparing the actual outcomes to the expected ones, identifying any gaps, and determining the next steps.

7 Sefer Harachim, vol. 1, pg. 618

(ספר הערכים, ח"א עמ' תריח)

"אפשרות של אהבת ישראל, היא רק במי שעושה נפשו עיקר וגופו טפל, כי כאשר עיקר הוא 'היא' (והנפש היא טפילה), אי אפשר להיות אצלו אהבת ישראל אמיתית ורק אהבה התלויה בדבר (מכיון שהגופים מחולקים, הרי הוא ורעהו שני אנשים שונים הם, ואי אפשר להיות ביניהם אהבה עצמית) רק באלו שגופם נמאס ומתועב אצלם; וכל עיקרם הוא הנפש, אצלם דוקא ישנה אהבת ישראל אמיתית, אהבה עצמית" (ספר הערכים, ח"א עמ' תריח).

9 *Rebbe of Ozorov in Aish Dos, Shaar Kedushas Yisroel*

רשפי שער קדושת ישראל אש דת

אמת ושקר באהבת ישראל

החונקת היא שאסור לאדם להצדיק את השגאה ואת המחלוקת

[illegible]

שלז ספר שער השנאה - פרק ד המדות

שני לוחות הברית

אות כ' בריות

[illegible]

(א) **בְּיָמָיו** (ויס' ו פס'): ואהבת את ה' אלהיך, וברוך **יְהוָה** (ע' יס'): ואהבת לרעך כמוך, הנה מתורבים אלו שתי אהבות ומתחברים על ידי אהדתו ייבוך, כי כן אנו מסיים הכבוד עצמו ישראל באהבה ואהב עמי ישראל, ואומרים סטוק היחוד ואחז כי אהבת הסט ייבוך ואהבת את ה' אלהיך, גם עשרת הברדות מסיימן אשר לרעך. והנה כתבו המהכנים כהנהגה הברדית שי תרץ אומית מכני כחזי מרדתי, ותרמי אומיתנה תרמוות לתרמי צמות, בכל אות מצות אחת, וכו' אומית הנשארות מה זן מצות דברו מזה הקומינים, שי אומרים שזן גגו י מצות דרכן, ויש אומרים ענינים אחרים. אמנם המפורו שבכולם הוא מה שהבחי מרבי העיני, שאמר, מה הם הדי אומית ששארות, הם אישר לרעך, הנה הרגל שעליו שרמל כל התורה הדיעו תרמי. כהנזהו דעלן כמה מרליקין (סס ג' פ) ולימר הילל את הגד כל חתורה על דגל אחת, ועלן מי לחבר כל חתורה וזחי כל התורה הדיע, אידין פירשאו הוא יזי גבור. פירש רש"י: ועלן מי לחבר

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