# Mishnah Study in Observance of the 50th Yahrzeit of Abraham Joshua Heschel (z"l)

# Chancellor Shuly Rubin Schwartz

א

פאה א:א -- אֵלּוּ דְּבָרִים שָׁאֵין לָהֶם שָׁעוּר. הַפֵּאָה, וְהַבִּכּוּרִים, וְהָרֵאָיוֹן, וּגְּמִילוּת חֲסָדִים, וְתַלְמוּד תּוֹרָה. אֵלּוּ דְבָרִים שֶׁאָדָם אוֹכֵל פֶּרוֹתֵיהֶן בָּעוֹלָם הַזֶּה וְהַקֶּרֶן קַיֶּמֶת לוֹ לָעוֹלָם הַבָּא. כָּבּוּד אָב וָאֵם, וּגְמִילוּת חֲסָדִים, וַהֲכָאַת שָׁלוֹם בֵּין אָדָם לַחֲבֵרוֹ, וְתַלְמוּד תּוֹרָה כְּנֶגֶד כַּלָּם:

These are the things that have no definite quantity: The corners [of the field]. First-fruits; [The offerings brought] on appearing [at the Temple on the three pilgrimage festivals]. The performance of righteous deeds; And the study of the Torah. The following are the things for which a man enjoys the fruits in this world while the principal remains for him in the world to come: Honoring one's father and mother; The performance of righteous deeds; And the making of peace between a person and his friend; And the study of the Torah is equal to them all.

## -----

# Rabbi Ayelet Cohen

2

תענית ד:א -- בִּשְׁלשָׁה פָּרָקִים בַּשֶׁנָה כֹּהֲנִים נוֹשְׂאִין אֶת כַּפֵּיהֶן אַרְבַּע פְּעָמִים בַּיּוֹם, בּשַּחַרִית, בַּמוּסִף וּבַמּנָחָה וּבַנַעִילִת שַׁערִים, בּתַּעֵנִיּוֹת וּבַמּעַמִדוֹת וּבַיוֹם הַכָּפּוּרִים:

At three times in the year priests raise their hands to recite the Priestly Benediction four times in a single day, in the morning prayer, in the additional prayer, in the afternoon prayer, and in the evening in the closing of the gates, i.e., the *ne'ila* prayer: During communal fasts, during non-priestly watches [ma'amadot], and on Yom Kippur.

#### \_\_\_\_\_

# Rabbinical student Ilana Sandberg

ገ

מכות ג:טז -- <u>רַכִּי חָנְנְיָא כֶּן עִקְשִׁיָא</u> אוֹמָר, רָצָה הַקָּדוֹשׁ כָּרוּךְ הוּא לְזַכּוֹת אֶת יִשְׂרָאֵל , לְפִיכָךְ הִרְכָּה לָהֶם תּוֹרָה וּמִצְוֹת, שֶׁנֶּאֱמַר (<u>ישעיה מ״ב</u>) יְיָ חָפֵץ לְמַעַן צִדְקוֹ יַגְדִּיל תּוֹרָה ווַאִדִּיר:

Rabbi Ḥananya ben Akashya says: The Blessed Holy One sought to confer merit upon the Jewish people, and thus gave them an abundance of Torah and mitzvot, as it is stated: "It pleased the Lord for the sake of the divine righteousness to make the Torah great and glorious" (Isaiah 42:21).

-----

#### Rabbi Mordecai Schwartz

מנחות ג:ה -- הַּקּּמֶץ, מִעוּטוֹ מְעַכֵּב אֶת רֻבּוֹ. הָעִשָּׂרוֹן, מִעוּטוֹ מְעַכֵּב אֶת רֻבּוֹ. הַיַּיִּן, מִעוּטוֹ מְעַכֵּב אֶת רֻבּוֹ. הַשָּׁמֶן, מִעוּטוֹ מְעַכֵּב אֶת רֻבּוֹ. הַסֹּלֶת וְהַשֶּׁמֶן מְעַכְּבִין זֶה אֶת זֶה. הַקּּמֶץ וְהַלְּבוֹנָה מְעַכְּבִין זֶה אֶת זֶה:

Failure to offer even a minority of the *kometz* (handful of flour) renders the majority of it ineffective. Similarly, failure to offer even a minority of the required tenth of an ephah of flour renders the majority of it, ineffective. Also, failure to pour even a minority of the required wine libation renders the majority of it ineffective. And, failure to add even a minority of the required amount of oil renders the majority of it ineffective. With regard to the fine flour and the oil, failure to bring each prevents fulfillment of the mitzvah with the other. With regard to the *kometz* and the frankincense, failure to burn each prevents fulfillment of the mitzvah with the other.

\_\_\_\_\_

## Rabbinical student Amelia Wolf

מ

ก

ברכות א:א -- מֵאֵימָתַי קּוֹרִין אֶת שְׁמַע בְּעַרְכִית. מִשְׁעָה שֶׁהַכּּהֲנִים נִכְנָסִים לֶאֱכֹל
בּתְרוּמָתֶן, עַד סוֹף הָאַשְׁמוּרָה הָרִאשׁוֹנָה, דְּכְרֵי <u>רַבִּי אֱלִיעָזָר</u> וַחֲכָמִים אוֹמְרִים, עַד חֲצוֹת .
בַּבָּן גַּמְלִיאֵל אוֹמֵר, עַד שָׁיַּעֲלֶה עַמּוּד הַשָּׁחַר. מַעֲשֶׂה שֶׁבָּאוּ בָנָיו מִבֵּית הַמִּשְׁהֶּה, אָמְרוּ לוֹ, לֹּא קְרִינוּ אֶת שְׁמַע. אָמַר לָהֶם, אִם לֹא עָלָה עַמּוּד הַשַּׁחַר, חַיָּכִין אַתֶּם לִקְרוֹת. וְלֹא זוֹ בִּלְבַד, אֶלֶּא כָּל מַה שָׁאָמְרוּ חֲכָמִים עַד חֲצוֹת, מְצְוָתֶן עַד שָׁאַחָר. הָשְּיַעְלֶה עַמּוּד הַשָּׁחַר. וְכָל הַנֶּאֱכָלִים לְיוֹם אֶחָד, מִצְּוָתֶן עַד שָׁיַעֲלֶה עַמּוּד הַשָּׁחַר. וְכָל הַנֶּאֱכָלִים לְיוֹם אֶחָד, מִצְּוָתָן עַד שָׁיַבְּם מִן שִׁיּצְלֶה עַמּוּד הַשָּׁחַר. אִם כַּן, לָמָּה אָמְרוּ חֲכָמִים עַד חֲצוֹת, כְּדֵי לְהַרְחִיק אֶת הָאָדָם מִן הָעֲבָרָה:

From what time may one recite *Shema* in the evening? From the time when the priests enter to partake of their *terumah*, until the end of the first watch. That is the statement of Rabbi Eliezer. The Rabbis say: The time for the recitation of the evening *Shema* ends at midnight. Rabban Gamliel says: One may recite *Shema* until dawn. Once, Rabban Gamliel's sons returned very late from a party. They said to him: We did not yet recite *Shema*. He said to them: If the dawn has not yet arrived, you are obligated to recite *Shema*; and that it is true not only in this case, but rather, wherever the Sages say "until midnight", the mitzvah may be performed until dawn. (E.g. the burning of fats and limbs on the altar, and the consumption of sacrificial meat that must be done in a single day, all may be done until dawn). If so, why did the Sages say that they may be eaten only until midnight? This is in order to distance a person from transgression.

-----

אבות א:ו -- יְהוֹשֻׁעַ כֶּן פָּרַחְיָה וְנָתַּא<u>ִי הָאַרְכֵּלִי</u> קְבְּלוּ מֶהֶם. יְהוֹשֻׁעַ כֶּן פְּרַחְיָה אוֹמֵר, עֲשֵׂה לְךָּ רַב, וּקְנֵה לְךָּ חָבַר, וֶהֱוִי דָן אֶת כָּל הָאָדָם לְכַף זְכוּת:

Joshua ben Perahiah and Nittai the Arbelite received [the oral tradition] from them. Joshua ben Perahiah used to say: appoint for thyself a teacher, and acquire for thyself a companion and judge all men with the scale weighted in his favor.

-----

# Rabbinical Student Benjy Forester

אבות א:יב -- <u>הּלֵּל וְשַׁמָּאי</u> קִבְּלוּ מֵהֶם <u>הּלֵּל</u> אוֹמֵר, הֱוֵי מִתַּלְמִידָיו שֶׁל <u>אַהְרֹן</u> ,אוֹהֵב שָׁלוֹם ורוֹדף שׁלוֹם, אוֹהב את הבּריּוֹת וּמקרבן לתּוֹרה:

Hillel and Shammai received the tradition from Shemaya and Avtalyon. Hillel used to say: be of the disciples of Aaron, loving peace and pursuing peace, loving humankind and drawing them close to the Torah.

-----

## Dr. David Kraemer

ראש השנה ג:ח -- וְהָיָה כַּאֲשֶׁר יָרִים <u>משֶׁה</u> יָדוֹ וְגָבֵר יִשְׂרָאֵל וְגוֹ׳ (<u>שמות יז), וְכִי יָדְיוּ שֶׁל משְׁה</u> עוֹשׁוֹת מִלְחָמָה אוֹ שׁוֹבְרוֹת מִלְחָמָה. אֶכֶּא לוֹמֵר לְךּ, כָּל זְמִן שֶׁהָיוּ יִשְׂרָאַל מִסְתַּכְּלִים כְּשִׁבְּי מַעְלָה וּמְשַׁבְּדִין אֶת לִבָּם לַאֲכִיהֶם שֶׁבַּשָּׁמִיִם הָיוּ מִתְנַּבְּרִים. וְאִם לָאו, הָיוּ נוֹפְלִין. כִּיּוֹצֵא בַדְּכָר אַתָּה אוֹמֵר (במדבר כא) עֲשֵׂה לְךּ שֶׂרָף וְשִׂים אֹתוֹ עַל נֵס, וְהָיָה כָּל הַנָּשׁוּךְ בִּיּוֹצֵא בַדְּכָר אַתָּה אוֹמֵר (במדבר כא) עֲשֵׂה לְךּ שֶׂרָף וְשִׂים אֹתוֹ עַל נֵס, וְהָיָה כָּל הַנָּשׁוּךְ וְלָבְי מַעְלָה וּרְאָבִיהֶן שָׁבַּשְׁמִים, אוֹ נְחָשׁ מְחַיֶּה. אֶכָּאִ בְּדְין אֶת לִבָּם לַאְבִיהֶן שֶׁבַּשְׁמִים, הָיוּ מִתְרַפְּאִים, וְאִם לָאו, הָיוּ נְמּוֹקִים:

"And it came to pass, when Moses held up his hand, that Israel prevailed; and when he let down his hand, Amalek prevailed" (Exodus 17:11). Was it then the hands of Moses that would make or break the war? Rather, the verse comes to tell you that as long as the Israelites turned their eyes upward and subjected their hearts to their Father in Heaven, they would prevail, but if not, they would be defeated. Similarly, "Make for yourself a fiery serpent, and set it upon a pole; and it shall come to pass, that everyone that is bitten, when he sees it, he shall live" (Numbers 21:8). Was it then the copper serpent that would end or sustain life? Rather, when the Israelites turned their eyes upward and subjected their hearts to their Father in Heaven, they would be healed, but if not, they would wither away.

-----

ı

.

ก

שקלים ה:ו -- שְׁתֵּי לְשָׁכוֹת הָיוּ כַּמִּקְדָּשׁ, אַחַת לִשְׁכַּת חֲשָׁאִים, וְאַחַת לִשְׁכַּת הַכֵּלִים, לִשְׁכָּת חֲשָׁאִים יִרְאֵי חֵטְא נוֹתְנִים לְתוֹכָה בַּחֲשַׁאי, וַעֲנִיִּים בְּנֵי טוֹבִים מִתְפַּרְנְסִים מִתוֹכָהּ בַּחֲשַׁאי. לִשְׁכַּת הַכֵּלִים, כָּל מִי שֶׁהוּא מִתְנַדֵּב כָּלִי, זוֹרְקוֹ לְתוֹכָהּ. וְאַחַת לִשְׁלשִׁים יוֹם, גִּזְבָּרִין פּוֹתְחִין אוֹתָהּ. וְכָל כְּלִי שֶׁמּוֹצְאִין בּוֹ צֹרֶךְ לְכֶדֶק הַבַּיִת, מַנִּיחִין אוֹתוֹ. וְהַשְּאָר נִמְכָּרִין בִּדְמֵיהֶן וְנוֹפְלִין לְלִשְׁכַּת בָּדֶק הַבַּיִת:

There were two special chambers in the Temple, one called the chamber of secret gifts and the other one called the chamber of vessels. In the chamber of secret gifts, fearers of sin deposited money secretly and poor people of noble descent supported themselves from it secretly. With regard to the chamber of vessels, anyone who donated a vessel to the Temple would drop it inside that chamber, and once every thirty days the treasurers open it. Any vessel for which they found a use for Temple maintenance would be kept for that purpose, and the remainder would be sold, and the money that they yielded would be allocated to Temple maintenance.

\_\_\_\_\_

### Rabbi Gordon Tucker

V

פסחים י:א -- עַרְבֵי פְּסָחִים סָמוּךְ לַמִּנְחָה, לֹא יֹאכַל אָדָם עַד שֶׁתֶּחְשָׁךְּ. וַאֲפָלּוּ עָנִי <u>שָׁבִּישִׂרָאַל</u> לֹא יֹאכַל עַד שָׁיָּסֵב. וְלֹא יִפְּחֲתוּ לוֹ מֵאַרְבַּע כּוֹסוֹת שֶׁל יַיִן, וַאֲפָלּוּ מִן הַתַּמְחוּי:

On the eve of Passover, close to *minhah* time, a person may not eat until dark. Even the poorest of Jews should not eat the meal on Passover night before reclining at the festival meal that evening. The distributors of charity should not give a poor person less than four cups of wine for the Passover night meal. And this applies even if providing that wine requires taking it from soup kitchen funds.

-----

ָמִשֶּׁמֶת רַבִּי מֶאִיר ,כַּטָלוּ מוֹשָׁלֵי מִשָּׁלִים. מִשֶּׁמֶת כֵּן עַזַּאי ,כַּטָלוּ הַשַּׁקְדָּנִים. מִשֶּׁמֶת כֵּן זוֹמָא ,כַּטָלוּ ָהַדַּרְשָׁנִים. מָשֵׁמֶת רַבִּי יִהוֹשָׁעַ ,פָּסָקָה טוֹכָה מִן הָעוֹלֶם. מָשַׁמֶת רַכָּן שִׁמְעוֹן בֵּן גַּמְלִיאֵל ,כָּא גּוֹבַי ּוַרַבּוּ צָרוֹת. מִשֵּׁמֵּת רַבִּי אֵלְעָזָר בֵּן עַזַרְיָה ,פָּסַק הָעשֵׁר מִן הַחַכָּמִים. מִשֵּׁמֵת רַבִּי עֵקִיכָא ,בָּטַל כָּבוֹד ָהַתּוֹרָה. מִשֶּׁמֶת רַבִּי חֲנִינָא בֶּן דּוֹסָא בָּטָלוּ אַנְשֶׁי מַעֲשֶׂה. מִשֶּׁמֶת רַבִּי יוֹסֵי קַטְנוּתָא, פָּסְקוּ חֲסִידִים. וָלַמָּה נָקָרָא שָׁמוֹ קַטְנוּתָא, שֶׁהַיָה קַטְנוּתָן שֶׁל חֲסִידִים. מְשֵּׁמֶּת רַכַּן יוֹחַנָן בֶּן זַכַּאי הַחַכְמָה. מִשֶּׁמֶת רַבַּן גַּמְלִיאֵל הַזַּקון,בַּטַל כָּבוֹד הַתּוֹרַה וּמֶתַה טַהַרַה וּפָרִישׁוּת. מִשֶּׁמֶת רַבִּי יִשָּׁמֶעֵאל כֵּן פַּאבִי ,בַּטַל זִיו הַכָּהַנַּה. מִשֶּׁמֶת רֲבִּי ,בַּטַלַה עַנוַה ווִרָאַת חֵטָא ,רַבִּי פָנָחַס בֵּן יַאִיר אוֹמֶר, מִשֶּׁחַרַב בֶּית הַמָּקָדָשׁ, כּוֹשוּ חַבֶּרִים וּבָנֵי חוֹרִין, וְחַפּוּ רֹאשָׁם, וְנִדַּלְדְּלוּ אַנְשֵׁי מַעֲשֶׂה, וְגָבָרוּ ַבַעֲלֵי זָרוֹעַ וּבַעֲלֵי לָשׁוֹן, וָאֵין דּוֹרֵשׁ וָאֵין מִבַּקּשׁ, וָאֵין שׁוֹאֵל, עַל מִי לָנוּ לְהִשָּׁעֵן, עַל אַבִינוּ שֶׁבַּשָּׁמַיִם ָרָבִּי אֱלִיעֶזֵר הַגַּדוֹל אוֹמֶר, מִיּוֹם שֶׁחַרָב בֶּית הַמִּקְדַּשׁ, שַׁרוּ חַכִּימַיַא לְמָהֵוֵי כְסַפְּרַיַּא, וְסַפְּרַיַּא כְּחַזַּנַא, ּוִחַזָּנָא כָּעַמָּא דָאַרְעָא, וִעַמָּא דָאַרְעָא אָזֹלָא וִדַלְדְּלָה, וְאֵין מִבַּקֵּשׁ, עַל מִי יֵשׁ לְהִשָּׁעֵן, עַל אָבִינוּ ָשֶׁבַּשָּׁמִיִם. בְּעַקְבוֹת מָשִׁיחָא חֻצְפָּא יִסְגָּא, וְיֹקֶר יַאֲמִיר, הַגֶּפֶן תִּתֵּן פָּרְיָהּ וְהַיַּיַן בְּיֹקֶר, וְהַמַּלְכוּת ּתַּהָפֶּךְ לִמִינוּת, וָאֵין תּוֹכֶחָה, בֶּית וַעַד יִהִיֵה לְזָנוּת, וְהַגָּלִיל יֵחֲרַב, וְהַגַּכְלָן יִשׁוֹם, וְאַנְשֵׁי הַגִּבוּל יָסוֹכָבוּ מֵעִיר לָעִיר וָלֹא יָחוֹנָנוּ, וְחָכָמַת סוֹפָרִים תִּסְרַח, וְיִרְאֵי חֵטָא יִמָּאַסוּ, וְהָאֵמֶת תִּהֵא נֵעְדֵּרֵת. ָנְעַרִים פָּנֵי זְקֵנִים יַלְבִּינוּ, זְקָנִים יַעַמְדוּ מִפָּנֵי קְטַנִּים).מיכה ז (בַּן מִנַבֶּל אַב, בַּת קַמָה בָאִמַּהּ, כַּלָּה ַבַּחֱמֹתַהּ, אֹיָבֵי אִישׁ אַנִשִּׁי בֵיתוֹ. פָּנֵי הַדּוֹר כָּפָנֵי הַכָּלֵב, הַבַּן אֵינוֹ מִתְכַּיֵשׁ מָאַבִיו. וְעַל מִי יֵשׁ לַנוּ ָלְהָשַּׁעֵן, עַל אַבִינוּ שֵׁבַּשַּׁמַיִם רַבִּי פָנָחַס בַּן יָאִיר אוֹמֶר, זָרִיזוּת מִבִיאַה לִידֵי נִקְיוּת, וּנָקיּוּת מִבִיאַה ַליִדִי טַהַרָה, וְטַהַרָה מָבִיאָה לִידֵי פַרִישׁוּת, וּפַרִישׁוּת מַבִיאָה לִידֵי קַדְשַׁה, וּקַדְשַׁה מַבִיאָה לִידֵי עַנוַה, וענוה מבִיאַה לִידִי יַראַת חַטא, ויַראַת חַטא מבִיאַה לִידִי חַסִידוּת, וַחַסִידוּת מבִיאַה לִידַי רוּחַ ָהַקּדֵשׁ, וְרוּחַ הַקּּדֵשׁ מִבִיאַה לִידֵי תָחָיַת הַמָּתִים, וּתָחַיַת הַמֶּתִים בַּא עַל יָדֵי אֶלִיָהוּ זַכוּר לַטוֹב, : אָמָן

The death of Rabbi Meir was the end of those who relate parables; the death of Ben Azzai was the end of diligent study; the death of Ben Zoma was the end of true exegetes; the death of Rabbi Yehoshua was the end of true goodness in the world; the death of Rabban Shimon ben Gamliel brought on locusts and a multitude of troubles; once Rabbi Eleazar ben Azariah died, the sages ceased to be wealthy; once Rabbi Akiva died, the honor of the Torah ceased; once Rabbi Hanina ben Dosa died, people of wondrous action ceased; and once Rabbi Yosi the Small died, true piety was no more. And why was he called the Small? Because he was one of the least important of the pious ones. From the time when Rabban Yohanan ben Zakkai died, the glory of wisdom ceased; from the time when Rabban Gamliel the Elder died, the honor of the Torah ceased, and purity and asceticism died. From the time when Rabbi Yishmael ben Pavi died, the glory of the priesthood ceased; from the time when Rabbi Yehudah HaNasi died, humility and fear of sin ceased. Rabbi Pineḥas ben Ya'ir says: From the time when the Second Temple was destroyed, the *haverim* and free men of noble lineage were ashamed, and their heads were covered in shame, and men of action dwindled, and violent and smooth-talking men gained the upper hand, and none seek, and none ask, and none inquire of the fear of Heaven. Upon whom is there for us to rely? Only upon our Heavenly Parent. Rabbi Eliezer the Great says: From the day the Second Temple was destroyed, the generations have deteriorated: Scholars have begun to become like scribes that teach children, and scribes have become like beadles, and beadles have become like ignoramuses, and ignoramuses are increasingly diminished, and none ask and none seek. Upon whom is there to rely? Only upon our Heavenly Parent. He also said: With the approach of the Messiah, impudence will increase and high costs will pile up. Although the vine shall bring forth its fruit, wine will nevertheless be expensive. And the monarchy shall turn to heresy, and there will be no one to give reproof about this. The meeting place of the Sages will become a place of promiscuity, and the Galilee shall be destroyed, and the Gavlan will be desolate, and the men of the border shall go round from city to city to seek charity, but they will find no mercy. And the wisdom of scribes will putrefy, and people who fear sin will be held in disgust, and the truth will be absent. The youth will shame the face of elders, elders will stand before minors. Normal family relations will be ruined: A son will disgrace a father; a daughter will rise up against her mother, a daughter-in-law against her mother-in-law. A man's enemies will be the members of his household. The face of the generation will be like the face of a dog; a son will no longer be ashamed before his father. And upon whom is there for us to rely? Only upon our Heavenly Parent. Rabbi Pineḥas ben Ya'ir says: Torah study leads to care in the performance of mitzvot. Care in the performance of mitzvot leads to diligence in their observance. Diligence leads to cleanliness of the soul. Cleanliness of the soul leads to abstention from all evil. Abstention from evil leads to purity and the elimination of all base desires. Purity leads to piety. Piety leads to humility. Humility leads to fear of sin. Fear of sin leads to holiness. Holiness leads to the Divine Spirit. The Divine Spirit leads to the resurrection of the dead. And the resurrection comes through the agency of Eliyahu, who is remembered for good. Amen.