

**Why**

**Am**

**I**

**Here**

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## Preface

- What is my purpose in this world?

“Our soul is compared to a candle of Hashem.” [Mishlei 20:27]

What is a candle? A clump of wax with a wick in its core. You can light the wick with a match, and the flame can illuminate a room.

So too, our body has a soul in it, which can be ignited by the flame of Torah to live with Hashem’s guidelines.

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We should be thinking, ‘How can I light my candle to illuminate the world?’

## 1. When to be Hungry?

We all know the key to wealth from Avos 4:1, "Be satisfied and rejoice with your portions." They are gifts from Hashem. Why be sad that you may not have \$20 million yet, when you do already have \$10 million. Thank and sing to Hashem for what He has given you already and then He will bless you with even more.

But in spiritual matters, we should never stop growing. That is why we are here!... To study more and more Torah, to pray more and connect more with Hashem, and to help each other every day.

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The Mishna Avos 1:10 does not say, "Do work because you have to." Rather it says, "Love work," that will be the key to greater success.

Love your niche in serving Hashem.

## 2. How to Change

The key to real change is taught in Makos 10b, "The path that one is determined to go..."

This takes a firm resolution to know who you are and to recognize the flame within you to grow and connect with Hashem.

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The first step is to avoid situations that seem to lead you to trouble. The Talmud, Kidushin 56b says, "It's not the mouse that starts to steal until it finds a hole to hide in."

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Figure out what conditions are tempting you to fall and fail. Find ways to avoid them and grow.

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Waking up in the morning is Hashem's gift and reminder that Hashem loves you so much. He wants you in His world for another bright day!

### 3. How to Give

Everything we have is from Hashem. When we give to charity every day, we remind ourselves that all money is from Hashem. 'Tzedaka' means it is right to give charity. It's not just a nice thing. It is obligatory because all funds are from Hashem.

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Some people are very fortunate to be able to not only give others money, they are also able to teach Torah and mitzvos. Thus, they can impact people's entire lives.

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The more we give of ourselves, the more Hashem will enable us to give.

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When we help others, we can brighten the lights in their soul as well as in our own.

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| People may not want to be told what to do, but they love being taught. |
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Giving is living!

#### 4. Mitzvah Connections

Every mitzvah we do helps us form infinite connections with Hashem. When we serve Hashem with our thoughts, passion, enthusiasm and joy, our mitzvos reach much higher levels.

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Every mitzvah is a destination which enhances our inspiration and information. Even a seemingly small mitzvah is like a whole world of greatness.

We should ask ourselves, "Where can I have the most impact?"

If you are the only one who can do this mitzvah, it is like Hashem pointing His finger at you, so to speak, and saying, "This is for you..."

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Avos 1:14 teaches us to say daily -

"If not me, who?..."

If not now, when?"

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## 5. For Kindness

In Tehilim 89, we learn that the world is built on 'kindness for kindness.' This includes speaking to people about what is of interest to them. Each person enjoys speaking about what they treasure most.

Imagine you meet someone today and you say, "I hear that you are into X, Y, or Z... can I ask you some questions about it?"

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Find out what people are enthusiastic about and why!

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What is the passion of this person's life?  
What does he enjoy talking about?

Avos 4:1 teaches -

"Do you want honor and respect? Always make sure to make other people feel important."  
How, when and where? Always, everywhere.



## 6. You are Special

Imagine if you thought and taught that every person you interact with is important! You and they would behave with more greatness.

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When you talk to people about themselves, they will listen, even for hours, and you can fulfill the mitzvah to love others as yourself!

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What should you do if someone begins to criticize you?

You have a wonderful opportunity to fulfill the Principle of the Talmud Brochos 4a, "Train your tongue to say - "I don't know."

If you just argue, you may fulfill the following saying,

"A person convinced against their will, is of the same opinion still."

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In Avos 5:7 we learn seven steps to wisdom. One of them is to admit the truth. None of them is to confront the other person with saying, "You are wrong."

## 7. Admit to the Truth

When we admit to the truth quickly and sincerely, we get to fulfill a great Torah mitzvah and we will gain astonishing results. It becomes fun and it brings us closer to Hashem whose signature is the truth.

When you yield to the truth, you are showing the other person how important they are in your eyes, which is the great mitzvah of loving others as yourself.

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When you speak gently and friendly, you are a winner from the start. If you are soft-spoken and act in a subdued manner, you get to fulfill Avos 3:17, "The fence for wisdom is quiet!"

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Always begin in a friendly way. Thus you get to fulfill Avos 1:15, "Greet and treat every person with a thoughtful, friendly smile."



## 8. Yes, Yes

Why does it help people when you ask them simple questions to which they can say "Yes?"

It does not pay to argue with others because then people may become stubborn and against what you are suggesting. But if you look at the issues from the other person's viewpoint and think about what they would say 'yes' to, you can eventually get them to agree with you!

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Are you happy to be alive today?  
[I hope you are saying 'yes'.]

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When you listen patiently and you let others do a great deal of the talking, you get to fulfill Avos 1:15, "Say less..."

Ask people more questions to get them talking.

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Hashem gave us two ears, but only one mouth to remind us daily to listen more!

## 9. Consider

You may have received this booklet in the mail as a 'random' gift. You may have enjoyed reading it and gained some Torah guidelines. But imagine if you would send us your ideas and we would help you express them, you can gain much more!

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The Gemara says that water is a metaphor for Torah. Water always flows to the lowest area. This teaches us to act with humility towards others to strive to learn from them.

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When you interact with others, it is essential to look at their point of view. Consider their ideas and feelings as important as your own, as the Torah teaches - "Love others as yourself."

## 10. The Best Answer

One of the best answers to the question  
“Why am I here?” is to realize that Hashem put you  
here to think about the other person’s point of view!  
How can I get along with so and so?

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Pirkei Avos 2:9 says an answer in three  
Hebrew words - “This is why you were created!”