

The World Stands on Three Pillars



**The Pathway to
Greatness, Avos 1:2**

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Preface

- Torah Study is the way we learn how to think properly and patiently,

- Service includes teaching others how to think and live, and

- Kindness includes teaching others how Torah fences can save our lives.



1. In Our Prayers

We say these three prayers daily before the Shema →

“Hashem, please help us learn, teach and to watch & act,” by creating safeguards.

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We follow the pattern of

1- thinking patiently,

2- speaking to teach others,

and

3- putting up fences to secure our fulfillment of Torah and Mitzvos properly.

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We should always remember the example of a safeguard from the first Mishna in Brochos →

“One can say the evening Shma all night, but strive to say it before midnight to avoid missing out.”

2. Most Important

Which three words are the most significant in all of Pirkei Avos?

“He used to say.”

[Three words in Hebrew.]

We find them used 20 times in Avos.

By ongoing review, by repeating and verbalizing a lesson 101 times, we are serving Hashem by internalizing the lesson to permeate our system to transform ourselves.

That is how we become better at learning, teaching and setting up proper fences for success.

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These Mishnayos of Avos contain the core principles of the Torah to motivate and inspire us.

### 3. Three Gifts

Besides the first Mishna which teaches three Principles, this Mishna teaches us the three Pillars, and many other Mishnayos follow the Rule of 3. Why are there so many threes?

In Shabos 88a we learn to thank and Bless Hashem the Merciful One for giving us His Torah in a triple format

- Torah - we have five books of Chumash which are the foundation of all. They contain the 613 Mitzvos which we live by always,
- 8 Books of the Prophets, which are full of guidelines on how to live our lives and
- 11 Books of Scriptures, which include **Mishlei**, Parables and Metaphors, for how to succeed in life, and **Tehilim** - how to praise Hashem 24/7.

#### **4. Nation of Preparation**

We have three divisions of people in our nation - Kohanim, Leviim and Yisroelim. We are urged to learn from each other to serve Hashem better and more effectively.

- Moshe Rabeinu was a third born. Thus his older sister Miriam and his older brother Aaron helped guide him to become the greatest leader ever.
- There were three days of preparation before the actual receiving of the Torah so that we were all tuned in properly for this greatest revelation in history.
- In the third month, Sivan, with perfect weather so that we had the right timing and best preparation on all fronts.



## 5. More Threes

Rav Nisim Gaon adds many more threes which teach the concept of balance and completion of how Hashem designed His world.

In Brochos 16b we learn that Hashem has provided the world with three people who developed their potential to become 'Avos,' founding fathers of our nation and the world →

-**Avraham** - the pioneer in unique Chesed of emulating Hashem's ways of kindness,

-**Yitzchok** - his service was unique to the point of even offering his life to serve Hashem, and

-**Yaakov** - his ongoing maximum devotion to Torah Study and focus on truth is the third, to correspond to this Mishna of Torah, Avoda and Chesed.

## 6. How to?

Avraham the first of the Avos specialized in Chesed. But we are told to start with Torah because that is how we can learn to fulfill it all. We need to learn how to study Hashem's Torah, how to pray to Him and how to help others.

These are life's most persistent and urgent questions. But to succeed daily in Torah, Prayer and Kindness, we need to look for small ways to touch and inspire ourselves and others every day.

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We can begin by learning from every person, disciplining ourselves, rejoicing with our portions and honoring another person (see Avos 4:1).

7. The First Six Letters

The Aleph-Bais letters are loaded with lessons. In Shabos 104a we learn that the first six letters are three pairs of lessons that match our Mishna→

1- Aleph-Binah - learn to understand Torah,

2- Gemol-Dalim - help others who can use your help and

3- Hei-Vov - connect to the letters of Hashem's name, serving humbly by learning His Torah, speaking to Him and emulating His ways by helping others.

8. Three Forms of Assets

It's amazing how the Torah guidelines of dividing one's financial assets also follow a three-step plan in Bava Metzia 42a →

“Always divide your resources into

- $\frac{1}{3}$ land investments,
- $\frac{1}{3}$ merchandise and
- $\frac{1}{3}$ liquid assets.”

I know someone who keeps his cash divided in three different pockets as a reminder to think of these Torah Lessons...



9. Review, Review

We learn in Sanhedrin 99a, “One who learns without review is **like one who plants a field but fails to harvest the crops.**”

We have studied Avos, but there is no end to reviewing and internalizing the lessons.

- Why was Moshe chosen to receive the Torah for us? Because of his unique humility at the humble mountain called Sinai.
- When we review 101 times, we show our humility and worthiness.
- Be patient in judging issues, corresponds to proper Torah Study.
- Teach many disciples is a form of Avoda which helps us to grow and
- Putting up fences is a kindness to ourselves and others.

10. 101 Times

We learn in Chagiga 9b that there is no comparison between learning and reviewing 100 times and 101 times. The level of 101 is called an 'Eved Hashem,' on a very high level.

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[We can help you do Chesed by supplying you with booklets that you can share with others.]

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Pathway to Greatness Booklets

**Think, Teach and put up fences
- Avos 1:1**

**The world stands on three pillars
- Avos 1:2**

