

Do

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## Preface

One of the best keys to unlocking and developing our personality is to follow one of Hillel's most frequent teachings in Avos 1:14 -

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"If not now,
when?"
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Do it immediately, with a sense of urgency. Avoid procrastinating and commencing to proceed with a slow start. If you spend too much time preparing, you may miss the 'doing.'

But wait a minute -

What should we do with the rule in Avos 1:1  
- "Be slow and patient in deciding issues?"

## 1. Cautious or Careless?

If you practice delaying methods, is it just a waste of time or is it better to avoid impulsive decisions?

When should one stop to do adequate research and take action?

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'Doing it now' sounds like doing it instantly. Should you try to do your best possible in a few minutes, or get started now?

Just do it!

- Begin it,
that puts power and genius in it,
The mind and body will get heated,
and the mitzvah will be completed.

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Focus on starting, and then focus on finishing what you started.

## 2. Which Comes First?

At times we may have a question.

We know the great rule, "Torah study exceeds all." Thus we should study Torah as much as possible, day and night 24/7.

When another mitzvah opportunity comes our way we are taught, if it is not doable through other people, we need to take off from our Torah study to do it.

But what if we have two other mitzvos waiting for us and you anticipate that one may be more difficult and challenging?

There is another rule that is applicable,

"Do first that which may be more of a challenge so that we overcome our evil inclination!

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That which is most challenging, may end up being most rewarding -

"According to the pain, the gains increase,"
Avos 5:23.

3. Setting the Stage

There may be two exceptions:

1- Before presenting a Torah lecture, the Gemara Shabbos 30b teaches that we should say a light joke to cause joy that will help people relax and open up in a pleasant way. This happy experience will generate enthusiasm in an easy friendly way.

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2- Similar to what the Gemara teaches in many places,

“When you grab a small item, you will succeed.” There are times when tackling small, easy tasks will help develop the momentum we need to achieve much more.

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We need to review the way the Mishna expresses the rule - “Do it now.”

It says, “If not now, when?” This wording alerts us to many secrets such as...

4. What's Better?

Is it better to do something or nothing?
The answer is... it depends.

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There are people who may think they are doing something, when in fact, it may not be worthwhile.

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The Mishna in Avos 1:15 also teaches - "Say less and do more." Some ask, "What is wrong with saying more and doing more? The answer is that people who say more, usually fool themselves into thinking they are doing so much, and thus they slack off and don't do anything?"

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Thus we need to avoid doing things that are not worthwhile!!!

## 5. Why?

1- Don't fool yourself with useless efforts such as idle words,

2- Something not worth doing may waste your time and energy from that which is worth doing,

3- It may also fool others to think it is worthwhile,

4- It may also produce offspring, other things not worth doing to support the first unworthy thing.

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Thus the Mishna teaches us to ask ourselves - "If not now, when?" The answer may be never, and sometimes that is best!

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## 6. To Avoid Quitting

The Gemara Megillah 6b teaches, "Toil and you will find."

There were people who were discouraged and about to give up and quit, but they tried some last efforts and discovered tremendous success in their last-ditch efforts.

In Chagigah 9b we learn not to compare learning and review of 100 times to 101 times. There is no comparison because the payoff for 101 is most incredible. The pleasure of the new level of success is enormous and super-elevating.

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But do it wisely. See in between the words. Analyze and reexamine each point from your perspective. Ask others what they think of this point and that point and use Avos 4:1 on how you can learn from one person to change the whole world.

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The payoff is so great. Not only is even the review of a Torah saying Torah Study with tremendous rewards, it is also leading you to more understanding that is so precious!

## 7. Deep Pockets

When we study Torah or perform other mitzvos, we need to think and realize that we have Hashem backing and supporting us.

Avos 2:21 highlights this message -

“If you study much Torah, you will receive great rewards and your Employer is reliable to pay you amazing wages, most of which will be in the World to Come, the best place for eternal, unlimited rewards.

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To make a good decision,

- 1- we need to understand the objectives,
- 2- see the alternatives,
- 3- consider the risks and
- 4- the payoffs.

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## 8. “Don’t Always Finish”

This is a Mishna, Avos 2:21 -

“You are not required to complete the entire job, but you are not exempt from doing as much as you should...”

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Time is so precious that you should check on whether it is worth your while to complete some project or other.

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Trying to know everything about everything is not a virtue if it keeps you from mastering the topics you should know perfectly.

It may be time to stop doing something that is no longer your mitzvah to do.

## 9. Be Penny Wise

One of the secrets of wealth, Pesachim 111b, is the name of the Heavenly Angel in charge of finances - Mister Clean. He avoids people who step on crumbs.

Every minute one wastes is similar to a crumb being trampled on. The Angel of Poverty is called Mr. Mess (Novol) and stays in messy places. Wasting minutes is not the only criterion, but it accumulates and can become costly.

Saving time makes it quicker to accomplish and often less expensive in the long run.

## 10. Linked Together

One of the most important teachings that is linked together with 'Do it now,' is Avos 4:3,

1- "Do not disregard any person, and

2- Do not push aside any thing...

-every person has his time and

-every thing has its place."

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When every thing and person has their proper place we clear the path to do it now -

"If not you, who?

If not now, when?"

Avos 1:14.