



Volume 10. Issue 42

Leading with Authority

The *Mishnah* taught (1:9):

... *Shamaya* said, love work, hate lordship and seek not intimacy with the ruling powers.

We will focus on the second of the three teachings.

The *Bartenura* provides two explanations. The first is that this is a continuation of the first statement. You should love work and never think “I am too big and it is beneath me to engage in work.” The second explanation is that one should not use excessive power and act with dominion of the community as lordship ultimately buries those that engage in it.

The *Tifferet Yisrael* appears to combine the approach of the first explanation of the *Bartenura* with the content of the second. He explains that indeed one should engage in work. If one however succeeds and is nominated to a position of authority, one should not dominate his subjects like slaves, but rather treat them with compassion like children. The *Tifferet Yisrael* then continues with numerous examples where the Sages degraded lordship and spoke of their negative consequence.

The *Tosfot Yom Tov* elaborates on the statement of the *Bartenura* that “lordship buries those that engage in it”. He cites that *Gemara* in *Berachot* (13b) that asks why *Yosef HaTzaddik* died before all his brothers. *Rashi* sights the *pasuk* in the beginning of *sefer Shmot* that states, “And *Yosef* died, and all his brother” as the source. The *Gemara* responds that it was because he acted with authority.

The *Chatam Sofer* asks that in *Pirkei D'Rebbi Eliezer* a different reason is brought why *Yosef's* life was shortened. There, *R' Yishmael* taught because *Yosef* heard his brother say, “our father, your servant” ten times and remained quiet thereby giving consent, his life was shorted by ten years (and lived to 110). The *Chatam Sofer* explains that really both reasons were required. *Yosef* suffered for 13 years from when he was sold at the age of 17 till he made viceroy at the age of the 30. He explains that he was meant to live another 7 times the 17 years he suffered in stated of greatness. (Based on the *pasuk* “seven times against your sin” he understand that be repaid in good measure should be at least seven times.) Consequently he should have lived to age of 121. The reason stated in our *Gemara* deducted one year, while the reason from *Pirkei D'Rebbi Eliezer* deducted another 10.

A different answer might be found based on the words of the *Maharsha*. He notes that the *Gemara* writes the “*ha'manhig atzmo ba'rabanut*” and not “*ha'noheg*”. The difference is that the “*ha'noheg*” refers to one that acts with authority. That is not what the *Gemara* writes and not the focus. “*Ha'manhig atzmo*” implies that one seizes authority against that will of those he intends to rule. The *Maharsha* explains that *Yosef* did not seize power; he was granted it. Consequently he was not punished. The *Gemara* nevertheless learns this concept from the superfluous *pasuk* that states he died before his brothers.

Yisrael Yitzchak Bankier

Revision Questions

אבות א' ח' ב' ג'

- What did *Yehuda ben Tabai* teach regarding court cases and the debating parties? (א' ח')
- What did *Shimon ben Shetach* teach regarding interrogating witnesses? (א' ט')
- What three things did *Shema 'ya* teach regarding work? (א' י')
- What did *Avtalyon* teach regarding speech? (א' י"א)
- According to *Hillel* what four traits characterise a "student of *Aharon*"? (א' י"ב)
- What is different about the thirteenth *Mishnah*? (א' י"ג)
- What did *Hillel* say regarding one who: (א' י"ד)
 - Pursues honour?
 - Stops learning?
 - Does not learn?
 - Makes personal use of "*keter Torah*"?
- Complete the following statement made by *Hillel*: (א' י"ד)

אם אין אני לי _____ וכשאני לעצמי _____ ?
 _____ אימת?
- Complete the following statement made by *Shammai*: (א' ט"ו)

עשה תורתך _____ , אומר מעט _____ ,
 והוי מקבל את כל אדם _____
- What three things did *Rabban Gamliel* teach? (א' ט"ז)
- What three things did *Rabban Shimon ben Gamliel* teach regarding speech? (א' י"ז)
- According to *Rabban Shimon ben Gamliel*, on what three things is the world sustained? (א' י"ח)
- According to *Rebbi*, what is the straight path in which one should lead his life? (ב' א')
- If one focuses on which three things will he be saved from sin? (ב' א')
- According to *Rabban Gamliel* the son of *Rebbi Yehuda HaNasi* with what should *Torah* be combined? What is the result if one does not do so? (ב' ב')
- What guidance does he give to one who will be involved in communal affairs? (ב' ב')
- What warning does he give to one who will be involved in affairs with the government? (ב' ג')

Local Shiurim

Melbourne, Australia

Sunday -Thursday

10 minutes before *Mincha*
Mizrachi Shul
 Melbourne, Australia

Friday & Shabbat

10 minutes before *Mincha*
Beit Ha'Roeh
 Melbourne, Australia

Efrat, Israel

Shiur in English

Sunday -Thursday

Rabbi Mordechai Scharf
 9:00am
Kollel Magen Avraham
 Reemon Neighbourhood

ONLINE SHIURIM

Rabbi Chaim Brown
www.shemayisrael.com/mishna/

Rav Meir Pogrow
613.org/mishnah.html

Rabbi E. Kornfeld
Rabbi C. Brown
<http://www.dafyomi.co.il/calendar/myomi/myomi-thisweek.htm>

**SHIUR
 ON KOL HALOSHON**

Rabbi Moshe Meir Weiss
 In US dial: 718 906 6400
 Then select: 1 – 2 – 4

Next Week's Mishnayot...

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	שבת קודש
1 st December כ"ח כסלו	2 nd December כ"ט כסלו	3 rd December ל' כסלו	4 th December א' טבת	5 th December ב' טבת	6 th December ג' טבת	7 th December ד' טבת
Avot 2:4-5	Avot 2:6-7	Avot 2:8-9	Avot 2:10-11	Avot 2:12-13	Avot 2:14-15	Avot 2:16-3:1

