

HALACHOS HATZRICHOS

PACKET #16



TZEDAKAH BEFORE DAVENING

In the *Gemara*, it talks about a *Tanna* R' Elazar, who had an interesting *minhag*: In the morning, he would give a *perutah* (a small coin) to a poor person, and then go *daven Shemoneh Esrei*.

R' Elazar did this because the *posuk* says, “*Ani Betzedek Echezeh Panecha*,” “With justice I will see Your face.” Rashi explains what he meant, that first he takes care of the “*tzedek*” (justice) by giving *tzedakah*, and then he “sees Hashem’s face” by *davening*!

Based on this *Gemara*, the *Shulchan Aruch* tells us that we should give *tzedakah* before *davening*. In the time of R' Elazar, *Shemoneh Esrei* was the whole *davening*, but now we give *tzedakah* before starting *Shacharis*.

(On the same page as the *Gemara* tells us this story, it also tells us that “*Tzedakah Mekareves Es Hageulah*” — *Tzedakah* brings *Moshiach*! That is something else we should think about when we give *tzedakah*!)

See the Alter Rebbe’s *Shulchan Aruch*, *siman Tzadik-Beis*, *se’if yud*



LEARNING A PEREK TANYA BEFORE DAVENING

In *Shulchan Aruch* it teaches that before *davening*, a person should think about how great Hashem is, and how small a person is compared to Hashem. This will help us feel humble before Hashem.

In order to keep this *halacha*, some *Chassidim* had a *minhag* to learn a *perek* of *Tanya* before *davening*.

The Rebbe said that this is a very good *minhag*, and asked that all *Chassidim* keep it!

By first thinking about the words of *Tanya*, we will *daven* with the proper *bittul* we should have when we stand before Hashem in *tefillah*.

See the Alter Rebbe's Shulchan Aruch, siman Tzadik Ches; and Toras Menachem Hisvaaduyos 5749, vol. 3, p. 68



LEARNING HALACHOS EVERY DAY

In the introduction to the Alter Rebbe's *Shulchan Aruch*, the Mittlerer Rebbe writes that the main part of learning needs to be in order to know how Hashem wants us to act. It's especially important to learn the section of *Shulchan Aruch* called *Orach Chayim*, which is about things we do all the time. We can't always run to the *Rav* to ask a question, so we need to know the regular *halachos* well!

Based on this, the Rebbe says that everyone needs to make a set time every day to learn the practical *halachos* that we need to know, for example the *halachos* about *Hefsek B'Tefillah* or *brachos*. The main thing is that we should learn every single day, even for just a few minutes, because this will help us remember the *halachos*. Since all *halachos* are connected, the *halacha* you learn today will help you remember the *halacha* you learned yesterday!

See Toras Menachem vol. 7 p. 117, Shulchan Menachem vol. 4, p. 239



TZEDAKAH BEFORE LEARNING

“Ani Betzedek Echezeh Panecha.” “With *tzedek* I will see Your face.”

The *Chachomim* explain this *posuk* to mean that with *tzedakah* (*tzedek*) we will see Hashem’s face in *davening*. It teaches us that in order to be close to Hashem when we *daven*, we should first give *tzedakah*.

The Rebbe adds that learning Torah is also coming close to Hashem, “seeing Hashem’s face.” So based on this *posuk*, we should also give *tzedakah* before learning Torah!

Giving *tzedakah* before learning also helps our learning. One of the rewards for giving *tzedakah* is that our mind and heart become a thousand times more clear. This will help us have *hatzlacha* in our learning!

Toras Menachem 5749, vol. 2. p. 223,
Shulchan Menachem vol. 4, p. 231



LEARNING HALACHOS HATZRICHOS

There are many *mitzvos* it's easy to learn just by watching other people do them. For example, it's not hard to learn how to shake the Lulav and Esrog properly.

But other *mitzvos* are complicated. Unless a person actually learns the *halachos* about them, he will probably not always be doing them right.

For example, we know that we are not allowed to talk during *davening*. But what if we hear thunder in the middle of *Ashrei* — do we stop and say the *bracha*? Or what if we are *davening Shema* slowly and we hear the *Chazan* starting to repeat *Shemoneh Esrei* — can we answer Amen? The answer to these questions are part of the *halachos* of *Hefsek BeTefillah*, when we can interrupt our *davening*.

We know that pens and markers are *muktza* on Shabbos. But what do we do if we find a pen in the box of mentchies? And what do we do if we picked up a pen by mistake? This is part of the *halachos* of *muktza*, and you won't always know what to do unless you learn these *halachos*!

The Rebbe wanted everyone to learn the *halachos* that we need to live properly as a Yid. Starting from the youngest grades, all the way up to *kollel* and in the *shuls*, everyone should have daily *shiurim* in these *halachos*.

See in detail Shulchan Menachem vol. 4, p. 238 ff



ADDING IN LEARNING TORAH

Learning Torah is very important for everyone. One thing that happens when we learn Torah is that we are trying to understand Hashem's *Chochma*. When our mind is used to thinking with Hashem's *Chochma*, it will help us use that *chochma* every time we have to make a decision! This will help us always choose to do what Hashem wants.

So now is the time to make a *hachlata* to join a *shiur* in person, over the phone or online, start a *shiur*, or make a *chavrusa*.

Here are some ideas of seforim with short pieces that you can learn on a regular basis:

- **Migola L'Geulah** — *This sefer is in Hebrew, and has short pieces from Niglah, Chassidus, and the Rebbe's Torah about Moshiach*

- **Kitzur Shulchan Aruch** — *Learning a halacha or two every day is a very good idea! The Rebbe once said that someone who follows even just what it says in Kitzur Shulchan Aruch is "a gantz feiner Yid," a very fine Jew.*

- **Daily Wisdom** — *This is an English book with short pieces of Chassidus, especially the Rebbe's Chassidus, connected to every day of the year.*

- **Hamaor Sheb'Torah** — *This beautiful English sefer has short pieces of sichos explaining pesukim in Chumash.*

- **Sefer Hashlichus** — *This is a very big collection of the many places where the Rebbe changed the way of thinking of Chassidim, making them want to go on Shlichus.*

Of course, this is only a few of the Boruch Hashem thousands of beautiful seforim that can be learned! Learning Torah is best when it is done in something you are interested in. No matter what you find interesting, there is a part of Torah (and many seforim!) that are perfect for you.

