

How does one excel in 'עבודת ה'?

How does one excel in any field? What is the difference between someone who's an **AMATEUR** (not so good at something), and an **EXPERT** (someone really good at something)?

An expert is one who learns from his and other peoples' mistakes and avoids making major blunders. This משנה teaches us a major mistake to avoid in serving Hashem, so that we can EXCEL in our 'עבודת ה'.

אֲנִיגְנוֹס אִישׁ סוֹכּוֹ קִבֵּל מִשְׁמַעוֹן הַצַּדִּיק.
הוּא הָיָה אוֹמֵר, אֶל תְּהִיוּ כְעֹבְדִים הַמְשֻׁמְשִׁין אֶת הָרֵב עַל מִנַּת לְקַבֵּל פְּרִסָּה,
אַל־אֵלָּא הֵווּ כְעֹבְדִים הַמְשֻׁמְשִׁין אֶת הָרֵב שְׁלֵא עַל מִנַּת לְקַבֵּל פְּרִסָּה,
וְיִהְיֶה מוֹרָא שָׁמַיִם עֲלֵיכֶם

שמעון הצדיק, a leader of the city of סוכו received the מסורה from אַנִּיגְנוֹס.
He used to say, "DON'T be like servants who serve the master in order to receive reward;
BE LIKE servants who serve the master NOT in order to receive reward.
And the Fear and Awe of Heaven should be upon you".

Our first job in order to understand this משנה is to appreciate what an 'עבד ה' is.

How does the תורה describe משה רבינו's greatness after he was נפטר? As the one who took כלל ישראל out of מצרים? As the leader of the generation?! As the one who received the תורה at סיני and taught it to the Jewish people?! NO!

The תורה describes his greatest accomplishment, the *crowning glory of his lifetime* as 'עבד ה'.



עבד מלך מלך: A servant of the king has access to the king all the time! He learns first-hand what nobility is and he himself becomes ennobled. משה was a true 'עבד ה', and because of this was granted כלל ישראל over מלכות.

I am very proud to be a servant of Hashem! (Shabbos and Yom Tov Davening) **אנא עבדא דקודשא בריך הוא**

What about שכר, reward for doing מצוות? Will Hashem reward us for keeping His מצוות? _____!!

Should that be our focus while performing Hashem's מצוות? _____.

What is **יראת שמים**?



יראת שמים, awe and fear of Hashem is something we can naturally feel. The הקב"ה is all-powerful! Do we need to be told not to be afraid of a lion?! No, it's very natural! However, our יצר הרע tells us not to have יראת שמים! So the משנה is simply reminding us!

As פטירה explained it to his students before his זכאי a ר' יוחנן בן זכאי:
"יהי רצון שתהא מורא שמים עליכם כמורא בשר ודם"
Just like we care about how people think of us, should we care about how Hashem thinks of us even more!

What else motivates us to serve Hashem?

אהבת ה' - *Our desire to come close to Hashem.*

...ויחד לבבינו לאהבה וליראה את שמך...