

פרק א · משנה ה



יוסי בן יוחנן איש ירושלים אומר, יהי ביתך פתוח לרוחה, ויהיו עניים בני ביתך, ואל תרבה שיחה עם האשה. באשתו אמרו, קל וחמר באשת חברו. מכאן אמרו חכמים, כל המרבה שיחה עם האשה, גורם רעה לעצמו, ובוטל מדברי תורה, וסופו יורש גיהנם.

יוסי בן יוחנן, a leader of ירושלים said, “Let your home be open wide for guests to come; Employ poor people as members of your household; and, Don’t speak excessively with your wife.” This last rule is talking about one’s own wife, so all the more so about another person’s wife. A man who talks too much with women could cause bad things to happen to himself; he will end up wasting time from learning Torah, and could end up in גיהנם (- a place where the *neshamah* is purified if necessary.)



1. The first part of the Mishna discusses hospitality. Some people are selective when it comes to הכנסת אורחים. The משנה is teaching that a person’s home should be accessible to all Jews in need!

When one invites only prominent or wealthy people, it may be that he is only doing it in order to receive recognition for himself and not truly giving...

2. The second part of the Mishna teaches us how to give charity in the best way, by giving employment to Jews who are poor.

Giving someone a job is the highest form of charity.

3. The third part of the משנה doesn’t mean that a man shouldn’t speak with his wife; it means he shouldn’t speak with his wife *excessively*, meaning more than what’s necessary. A husband who respects his wife will not waste their time on chit-chat, but with meaningful conversation, care and concern, as the following story illustrates:

Once, Rabbi Aryeh Levin’s Rebbetzin felt pain in her foot. They went to the doctor together whereupon the doctor asked, "What can I do for you?" Rabbi Levin answered in all sincerity:

"Doctor, my wife’s foot is hurting us!"

In the book, “All For the Boss”, Rebbetzin Ruchoma Shain (1914-2013), ע"ה, wrote how she learned from her parents, Reb Yaakov Yosef and Aidel Herman, about true הכנסת אורחים, giving צדקה and how rewarding the relationship between husband and wife can be.

These books reflect the values of this משנה and are highly-recommended reading for every Jewish home!

