

פרק א · משנה ז

נתאי הארבלי אומר:

הרחק משכן רע, ואל תתחבר לרשע, ואל תתיאש מן הפרענות.

1. Stay far away from a bad neighbor.



A PERSON IS INFLUENCED BY HIS SURROUNDINGS!!

Who, me?! Influenced?

YES!! This applies to every single person!



Rav Chaim Pinchas Scheinberg (1910–2012) זצ"ל, was a צדיק who was raised in America and learned Torah in the Mir Yeshiva of pre-war Europe, and was the ראש ישיבה of Yeshivas Torah Ohr in ירושלים.

Rav Scheinberg once made a קידוש that no one knew the reason for, so some students asked him what the occasion was. He replied that whenever someone mentioned that the Yankees won a game, he felt a tiny bit happy to hear that. Just recently someone mentioned that the Yankees won the World Series, and he didn't have even the slightest feeling of happiness. Being a fan of the sports team of his American childhood was "out of his system".

The Rosh Yeshiva taught that *from this, we can learn how strongly our surroundings have an influence on us!*

This message came from someone who was a Gadol HaDor, a giant in Torah who was the Rosh HaYeshiva of a prestigious yeshiva, and had been living in Mattersdorf, an area in Yerushalayim comprised of בני עליה – a community of people highly dedicated to Torah – for close to 50 years!!

... "לך לך מארצך וממולדתך ומבית אביך" (בראשית יב: א)

2. Don't become friendly with a "Rasha".

Rasha: someone who intentionally rebels against Hashem's Torah.

Why should you stay away from such a person?

Maybe you could influence him to behave properly?!



משל Given by R' Yitzchak Z'ev Soloveitchik, the Brisker Rav (1886-1959):

Once upon a time, a father and son were walking in the forest. The son walked ahead, but then, the father saw that his son was approaching a bear, and so he told his son to quickly come back! The son said, "Don't worry so much; I just want to play with the bear!" The father said, "Come back *right now!*" The son then said, "But I can't! The bear is playing with me! **HELP!!**"

נמשל: _____



3. Don't think those who are deserving of punishment won't be punished. If you see someone doing עבירות and he is currently having it good, know that his time for עונש may come at any moment, even in this world...