

## הוא הִיה אומר, נגד שְׂמָא, אֲבָד שְׂמָה. וְדָלָא מוֹסִיף, יִסְיף. וְדָלָא יְלִיף, קִטְלָא חֵיב. וְדַאשְׁתַּמֵּשׁ בְּתַגָּא, חֵלְף



הלל teaches us these **COUNTERINTUITIVE** Torah truths:

One who engages in building his reputation, will lose his reputation;

One who doesn't increase his understanding of Torah, will forget the Torah he already knows;

One who withholds from sharing his valuable insights with the world, is not worthy of living;

One who uses the crown of Torah for his personal gain, will fade away.

### 1. נגד שְׂמָא, אֲבָד שְׂמָה



People naturally want to “fit in” with their social circles. While this is healthy and normal, we need to recognize that striving to win the “popularity contest” is counterproductive; it may bring temporary esteem and acceptance, but eventually, a person’s reputation is

negatively affected if this is the only factor that guides his or her choices.

*Story of business team that ordered the shrimp-special at a corporate lunch, that invited a Jewish man to discuss joining their team. The man, thinking that it would be better for his image to fit in, and not to make a big deal about keeping kosher, ate what everyone else was eating. The leader of the team became disinterested in partnering with him, explaining, “If you’re not loyal to your own religion, why should I believe that you’ll be loyal to our company??” He thought that by sacrificing his Yiddishkeit to fit in, he’d be more respected, but by making his reputation his goal, he lost their respect.*

When determining our course, the questions we always need to ask ourselves, are, “**Is this the right thing to do? Will this bring Hashem רוח נחַת??**”, and never, “Will this make me look good?”

### 2. וְדָלָא מוֹסִיף, יִסְיף.

As the saying goes, “A comfort zone is a dangerous place to be!”

If a person isn't growing in רוחניות, then automatically, his נשמה is withering. Think of a flower that’s plucked - it may look pretty for a while, but it actually starts to wither as soon as it is cut off from its life-force and is no longer growing.

**Torah is our life-force – we must keep learning and growing!**



### 3. וְדָלָא יְלִיף, קִטְלָא חֵיב.



One who refuses to benefit others by sharing what he knows, does not deserve the gift of life.

Imagine a mother who withholds her baby’s bottle because she feels she “has better things to do” than taking care of her baby... (תפארת ישראל -)

**Share what you've learned! - The world needs you!!**

### 4. וְדַאשְׁתַּמֵּשׁ בְּתַגָּא, חֵלְף.

We are warned of using (- abusing) our precious Torah as a tool for personal gain, like honor, wealth or any other perks. Example: in our פרקי אבות class, placing popcorn kernels in the jar is a tool to help us to be motivated to learn. **Our goal is to bring Hashem רוח נחַת with the Torah as our guide**; the promised “popcorn party” is only a motivation to help us achieve this goal. If, however, a person’s goal is popcorn, learning Torah only in order to get some is a bad idea; instead, this person should earn some money and buy popcorn to his heart’s content!

