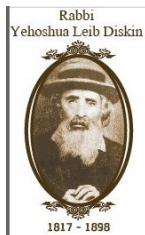


הם אמרו שלשה דברים: הוו מתונים בדין,  
והעמידו תלמידים הרבה, ועשו סיג לתורה.

“Be deliberate in judgment, raise many students,  
and make a fence around the Torah.” (פרק א משנה א)

3.

Just keeping the הלכה is not enough... In order to ensure that the תורה is protected, we have to recognize our weaknesses, and create an environment conducive to keeping the הלכות.



Story: R' Yehoshua Leib Diskin, the Rav of Brisk who lived from 1818-1898, known as "Maharil Diskin".

In his days, there was a strong group of anti-Torah people called משכילים (Maskilim), who tried to uproot תורה by making fun of מצוות.

One day, Rebbetzin Sarah, who was very strong-minded, was combing through their home in search of חמץ before Pesach. She was being "super-frum", and *shvitzing* away, cleaning out places which were *already* spotlessly clean...! The rav told his wife that she's not obligated to work so hard! How did she respond?

She said very sharply in return, "If everyone would listen to you, we would come to having חמץ on Pesach!!"

Even though her husband, who was a brilliant, towering Rav, was correctly teaching her the הלכות of cleaning for Pesach, she felt, also correctly, that in order to uphold the Torah in spite of the משכילים, it was important to be extra careful - to make a סיג - to ensure that practically speaking, the laws of Pesach were being kept!

*PS Although the משכילים tolerated the Maharil Diskin, they had a deeper and more open hatred for the Rebbetzin whose "street-smarts" presented an even greater obstacle to their goals of trying to uproot Torah from כלל ישראל!!*

#### A Few Examples Which Our חכמים Enacted:

מוקצה, not saying הרע לשון about someone who was נפטר, not eating meat and milk at the same time, not eating poultry and milk together, בישול עכו"ם... And many many others!

#### Practically... How we can learn from Rebbetzin Sarah's "Street-Smarts"...

It is a הלכה to *bentch* after a meal. Suppose that you find it easy to forget a ברכה אחרונה! What can you do to ensure that you remember?

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Other personal areas where putting up a "fence" around the Torah would be helpful!

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Why is it very important to differentiate between the הלכה and the סיג?

(Think about what happened in the story with אדם and חוה and the העץ הדעת.)

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