

The Daily Portion - Sivan Rahav Meir

Pirkei Avot: Now more than ever

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There is no better time to start learning Pirkei Avot (Ethics of the Fathers) than right now. Each Shabbat during the counting of the Omer period, between Pesach and Shavuot, it is customary to learn a chapter from this Talmudic tractate. The entire concern of Pirkei Avot is building a just society through refinement of our character traits, the appropriate preparation for receiving the Torah on Shavuot.

The six chapters of Pirkei Avot are reread on each Shabbat from after Shavuot until right before Rosh HaShana.

Here are just a few statements from Pirkei Avot. Think about what our lives would be like if we took them to heart and were guided by their light:

- “May your friend’s honor be a precious to you as your own.”
- “Be among the disciples of Aharon: Love peace, pursue peace, love others and them close to the Torah.”
- “Greet everyone with a pleasant countenance.”
- “The shy person cannot learn; the impatient person cannot teach.”

This is just a small taste of Pirkei Avot. May we merit to internalize all of its teachings and may all of us hear an abundance of good news.

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