

The Dee Pirkei Avot Project

משנה סנהדרין יא – Introduction to Pirkei Avot

כָּל יִשְׂרָאֵל יֵשׁ לָהֶם חֵלֶק לְעוֹלָם הַבָּא, שֶׁנֶּאֱמָר (ישעיה ס) וְעַמְּךָ כָּל־מִצְדִּיקִים לְעוֹלָם יִרְשׁוּ אֶרֶץ נֶצֶר
מִטְעִי מַעֲשֵׂה יָדֵי לְהִתְפָּאֵר

All Jews have a share in the World to Come, as it says, (Isaiah 60:21), "Your people are all righteous; they shall inherit the land for ever, the branch of my planting, the work of my hands, that I may be glorified."

The purpose of Pirkei Avot is to encourage man to live morally and ethically with emphasis on *derech erez kadma l'Torah* (Vayikra Rabbah 9:3). The Dee Family embody the balance between these two concepts and teach us the value of continued learning of Torah to better ourselves and the world around us, with tremendous *simchat hachaim*.

This Mishna in Sanhedrin is brought for us to understand that just as Hashem provides all Jews with a place in the World to Come, so too we should strive to do our utmost in this world to achieve it. The phraseology of having a *chelek*, "share", in the World to Come seems superfluous; the Mishna could have just explained that every Jew will be in the World to Come. Having a "share" indicates that there is a unique part of the World to Come reserved for each individual; there is a special part that only we can cultivate on this earth that will be allotted to us in the next. Only I as an individual can work for my share, and only you for yours - this highlights the essential role that every individual has to fulfill. By all of us doing our part, we strengthen ourselves and strengthen each other. While our purposes are distinct from one another, coming together to learn Pirkei Avot is the most beautiful way to build *Klal Yisrael*, *chelek* by *chelek*, in this world and the next.

Discussion Points

Does knowing I have a share in the World to Come affect my actions in this world?

עַמְּךָ כָּל־מִצְדִּיקִים - What does it mean to be righteous?

What makes me unique and how can I use this to better the world around me?

היום תשעה ימים שהם
שבוע אחד ושני ימים לעומר



לעילוי נשמת:

לאה בת רפאל הכהן וציפורה
מאיה אסתר בת הרב אריה מרדכי ולאה
רינה מרים בת הרב אריה מרדכי ולאה

