

A Link in the Chain



Word Box

ומסרה – and gave it to
אנשי כנסת הגדולה – Men of the Great Assembly

1. פרקי אבות א:א

משה קבל תורה מסיני, ומסרה
ליהושע, ויהושע לזקנים, וזקנים לנביאים,
ונביאים מסרוה לאנשי כנסת הגדולה

The first Mishna of Pirkei Avot explains how the Torah and all of the important life messages contained in it, were passed down from generation to generation.

Why is this an important way to start off Pirkei Avot?

Word Box

הביטו – look at
צור – rock
חוצבתם – from which you were cut
מקבת – hole
נוקרתם – from which you were dug
תחוללכם – the one who gave birth to you

2. ישעיהו פרק נא

א הביטו אל-צור חוצבתם, ואל-מקבת
בור נוקרתם. ב הביטו אל-אברהם
אביכם, ואל-שרה תחוללכם:

Who does the navi Yishayahu tell us to look towards for direction? Why do you think this is?

Word Box

ישימך – He should place/make you

3. ברכת בנות בשבת

ישימך אלוקים כשרה, רבקה, רחל ולאה .

- Every Shabbos, our fathers give us a bracha. What is that bracha?
- Why do you think this is the best bracha you could receive each week?

Word Box

צילו – its shade

נאה – nice

אמת המים – stream of water

נטיעות - sprouts

4. תלמוד בבלי, מסכת תענית דף ה, ע"ב

אדם שהיה הולך במדבר והיה רעב ועיף וצמא,
ומצא אילן שפירותיו מתוקין, וצילו נאה, ואמת
המים עוברת תחתיו. אכל מפירותיו, ושתה
ממימיו וישב בצילו. וכשביקש לילך אמר: "אילן,
אילן! במה אברכך?

אם אומר לך נְשִׂיָהוּ פִּירוֹתֶיךָ מְתוּקִין, הֲרִי פִּירוֹתֶיךָ מְתוּקִין
נְשִׂיָהוּ צֶלְךָ נָא, הֲרִי צֶלְךָ נָא

נְשִׂיָהוּ אֵמֶת הַפִּיּוֹם עוֹבֶרֶת תַּחְתֶּיךָ, הֲרִי אֵמֶת הַפִּיּוֹם עוֹבֶרֶת תַּחְתֶּיךָ
אֵלָּא יְהִי רְצוֹן שְׁכָל נְטִיעוֹת שְׁנוֹטְעִין מִמְּךָ יְהִי כְמוֹתְךָ

When the traveler turned to leave the tree, he wanted to give it a bracha to repay it for all he had received from the tree.

- What were the possible options did he consider for an appropriate bracha?
- Why did he reject those options?
- What bracha did he decide to give in the end?

- Do you think that the is a good bracha? Do we want to children to turn out exactly like their parents?

5. R' Yosef Dov Soloveichik (OU.org)

שמע בני מוסר אביך ואל תטוש תורת אמך The father teaches his children the rigor of halachah, the science of the legal principles, the discipline required of a Torah Jew. The mother shows her children that there is a heart and soul in a Godly life. She passionately instills love and commitment, and she infuses detail and routine with warmth and meaning. Nothing can substitute or replace the impact of the parents and the extended family on the healthy development of a child, the link in the chain that binds one generation to the next.

- Though a bit of a generalization, what does the father usually give over to his children?
- What does the mother give over to her children? What can the relationship between parents and children be compared to?
- What traits have you learned from your parents or grandparents? Do you have a story about one of your ancestors which you can learn something from, that you can share with the group?
- What traits would you like to give over to your children?