



מִסְכַּת אָבוֹת פֶּרֶק ד מְשֻׁנָּה א: "אֵיזָהוּ עֲשִׂיר?"



The Mishna:

המשנה:

Avot 4:1
 Ben Zoma said:
 ... Who is rich?
 He who rejoices in his lot,
 as it is said: "You shall enjoy the fruit
 of your labors, you shall be happy and
 you shall prosper"
 (Psalms 128:2)

אבות ד, א
 בן זומא אומר:
 ... איזהו עשיר?
 השמח בחלקו,
 שנאמר: "יגיע כפיר כי תאכל
 אשריך וטוב לך"
 (תהלים קכח, ב)...

A short explanation on the Mishna:

The definition of a rich person generally depends on the economic situation of a group, or an entire nation, as well as the wealth of the individual person in the society in which he lives. The definition greatly varies between different places and different times.

The Mishna refers to another aspect of a rich person. A person who is happy with his lot. When a person decides and feels that he is happy with what he has, he feels satisfaction and does not feel that he is lacking anything. A person who has many possessions, but is not happy with his lot, will never feel that he is rich. Sometimes, the more money a person has, the more he feels that he is lacking things in life.

The verse that the Mishna brings is about a person who enjoys the benefits of his work. (A person who works and earns a living in order to eat. Such a person is happy with his earnings, and therefore is happy with his lot).

(Based on the commentary by Rabbi Adin Even-Israel Steinsaltz on Pirkei Avot, p. 199, Courtesy of The Steinsaltz Center)



 **Level 1**

- **Revision.** of the Mishna with hand movements.




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  **Level 1+2**

- **Comprehension questions on the Mishna.**
- ❖ Where in my life do I feel rich?
- ❖ How is a rich person generally defined? What does such a person lack?

Answer these questions on the attached worksheet or in the class discussion.