



מִסְכַּת אָבוֹת פֶּרֶק ד מִשְׁנֵה ג: "אֵל תְּהִי בִז"א



The Mishna:

Avot, Chapter 4, Mishna 3:

He [Ben Azai] used to say:
do not despise any man,
and do not discriminate against anything,
for there is no man that has not his hour,
and there is no thing that has not its place.

המשנה:

אבות ד, ג

הוא [בן עזאי] היה אומר:
אל תהי בז לכל אדם,
ואל תהי מפליג לכל דבר.
שאיין לה אדם שאין לו שעה,
ואין לה דבר שאין לו מקום.

A short explanation on the Mishna:

Never treat anyone or anything with disrespect.

Beyond the fact that it is neither nice nor moral to treat any person with disrespect, the Mishna brings another reason for this: every person can benefit from or harm

someone at a certain time, and everything may also affect someone at a certain time.

(Also based on Rabbi Even-Israel Steinsaltz's commentary on Pirkei Avot, p. 207, courtesy of the Steinsaltz Center).



Level 1:

- **Memorize** the Mishna with hand movements.

(Click or scan the barcode)



- Words and phrases in the Mishna, and a story about a person who had "his hour." The activity appears on the worksheet for this lesson.



Level 2

- **Personal assignment:**

Share your story with the class:

- ❖ Have you ever seen someone else have "his hour"? Has someone you know done something extraordinary at a certain time, where their special powers, or special character traits were manifested?
- ❖ Have you ever seen a natural phenomenon that you thought you would never see?

- **Activity**

What am I taking from this activity into my daily life?



Level 3

- **Class discussion:**

Other than the fact that it is not nice to act in a disrespectful way and belittle people or things, what does a person who does not appreciate people or objects lose?

Possible answers:

Certain things do have value, even if it not much or even if it is rare. If a person gets used to not mocking anything, he will see the value in everything.



If a person despises people, or things, he will not be able to receive help from them (or use them) when needed. In our world everyone contributes their part, using their own qualities, at different times and we must appreciate every kind of contribution of everything and from every person.

(Based on Rabbi Even-Israel Steinsaltz's commentary on Pirkei Avot, p. 207, courtesy of the Steinsaltz Center).