**Respect – Take it or Leave it?**



**#1**

**Definitions**

*Kavod* - honor, glory, dignity, respect, recognition

In Hebrew it has the same root as “heavy”- *kaved*.

**THE OPPOSITE:**

*Kal* - disrespect, contempt, scorn

In Hebrew it has the same root as “something that is light”

**Synonyms**

*Kavod* – respect = *Yakar* – expensive

*Kal* – disrespect = *Zilzul/Zol* - cheap

**Question: How would you explain this?**

**Try to see if these insights would give us clarity about what honor, dignity, respect, and recognition are all about!**

**#2**

**Question: Why do people need *kavod*?**

**#3**

**Pirkei Avos 4:28**

*Rabbi Elazar HaKappar says: Envy, desire, and kavod (glory) remove a person from the world.*

**Pirkei Avos (2:15)**

*Rabbi Eliezer says: Let your fellow’s kavod (honor) be as dear to you as your own…*

**Talmud Brochos 28b**

*When Rabbi Eliezer fell sick, his students came to visit him. They asked him to teach them how to merit the World to Come. Rabbi Eliezer said: Be careful about the kavod (honor) of your fellows…*

**Question: Why are we encouraged to honor others?**

**Do we really want to give someone else something that is bad for them?!**



**#4**

Based on the contradictory approaches to *kavod* we can assume that there are two kinds of *kavod* – the negative kind and the positive kind.

**Question: Under which circumstances is it bad and you have to run away from it, and when is it good, should be dear to you and you should give it to others?**

**#5**

**Pirkei Avos 4:28**

*Rabbi Elazar HaKappar says: (1) Envy, (2) desire, and (3) pursuit of kavod (honor) remove a person from the world.*

**Pirkei Avos 2:16**

*Rabbi Joshua would say: (1) An evil eye, (2) the evil inclination, and (3) the hatred of one's fellows, drive a person from the world.*

According to the commentators, these two *Mishnahs* are parallel to each other and explain each other.

**Question: What is the connection between this negative kavod and *hatred of one's fellows?* How do they affect each other?**



**#6**

**Pirkei Avos 2:16**

*Rabbi Joshua would say: An evil eye, the evil inclination, and the hatred of one's fellows, drive a person from the world.*

**Pirkei Avos 4:1**

*Ben Zoma says: Who is honored? He who honors others, as it is said: “For those who honor Me I will honor, and those who disrespect Me will be degraded (1 Shmuel 2:30).”* Torah seems to attribute both – negative and positive – types of ***kavod*** to the way we treat other people.

**Question: Why is negative *kavod* connected to hating others and positive *kavod* is connected to giving *kavod* to others?**

**#7 Question: What is one practical thing that you discussed/ learned today that could be beneficial in your life?**