



Text

*A teaching of Jewish Sacred Aging*  
*Rabbi David Levin*



# Pirkei Avot

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❖ Hillel 1:14

❖ He would also say: If I am not for myself, who is for me? And if I am only for myself, what am I? And if not now, when?



הוא היה אומר:

אם אין אני לי, מי לי?

וכשאני לעצמי, מה אני?

ואם לא עכשיו, אימתי?



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אם אין אני לי, מי לי

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- ❖ If I am not for myself, who will be for me?
- ❖ Rabbi Hillel said (2.5), “ In a place where there are no human beings, try to be one.”
- ❖ Rabbi Shimon said (4.13), “The crown of a good name is greater than all of them.”



# Pirkei Avot

וכשאני לעצמי, מה אני?

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- ❖ **If I am only for myself, What am I?**
- ❖ Rabbi Yehuda Ha-Nasi said (2.1), “Which is the path [of life] that one should select? The one that seems honorable for oneself and brings honor [bestowed by] others.”
- ❖ Rabbi Yishmael said (3.12), “Be speedy to obey a superior; be dignified before the young; and cheerfully greet every person.”



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וכשאני לעצמי, מה אני?

פירקין אבות

- ❖ If I am only for myself, What am I?
- ❖ Ben Zoma said (4.1): “Who is wise? The one who learns from everyone.”
- ❖ Hillel said (2.4), “Don’t separate yourself from the community.”



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ואם לא עכשיו, אימתי?

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- ❖ If not now, When?
- ❖ Rabbi Tarfon says (2.16) Even if we cannot complete the work, we cannot desist from it.
- ❖ Repent as if it is the last day
- ❖ Let's get started



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## Conclusion

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- ❖ Rabbi Elazar said (2.9), “[One Should have] a good heart... and flee [Having] an Evil heart.”
- ❖ Rabbi Eliezer said (2.10),
  - ❖ “Let your friends honor be as precious as your own.
  - ❖ Be difficult to provoke.
  - ❖ And repent one day before your death.”



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## Conclusion

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- ❖ Rabbi Yaakov said (4.17): “And hour spent in penitence and good deeds in this world is better than all of life in the world to come.”
- ❖ Rabbi Akavyah said (3.1): Reflect on three things...
  - ❖ Know where you came from
  - ❖ Know where you are going
  - ❖ Know in whose presence you will have to make and accounting



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## Bibliography

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