

# **Out To The Field – Finally Accessing The Advice**

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Continued from last week [here](#):

### **Likutey Moharan II:73 – Week 5**

I was beginning to wonder when I would be able to access any of the *eitzah* in *avodas Hashem* that I wrote about [here](#) through saying Tehillim. Things down by the rock by the river certainly did not seem to be going my way. A large rain storm made the water level rise and almost entirely cover my rock.



When the water level subsided almost a week later, the rock was covered with mud and I was unable to sit on it. I went looking for a new place to say Tehillim during my lunch break and found a nice stone park bench near some woods not far away.



One day while I was in the midst of saying Tehillim, an elderly man walking a little fluffly white dog came over to me and said, "This sure is a nice place to read Talmud, isn't it?." After making some small talk, he asked again if I was studying Talmud (i.e. Gemara).

I replied, "No, just Psalms".

I didn't think anything of this interchange until later in the day when I went back to the office and saw [a new posting](#) on the Breslov Center's website which mentioned the necessity to learn Gemara every day. This posting resonated with me strongly since I had stopped learning Gemara six months ago after concluding that I simply wasn't cut out for it. I rationalized that learning [Mishnah Yomis](#) was enough for me to cover the base of learning *Torah she'ba'al peh* (the Oral Torah). After all, I still had never gone through the entire Mishnah and *Pirkey Avos* 5:25 did say that I should have started doing this at age 10!

Waking up early the next morning for hisbodedus, I had a tremendously strong feeling that I really did need to start learning Gemara and that my daily learning was deficient without it. Using the entire hour, I spoke to Hashem about this feeling and asked Him if this strong feeling was really coming from Him. I wanted to be able to decipher whether this inclination was from my *yetzer tov* (good inclination) or my

*yetzer hara* (evil inclination). Before the hour was over, I concluded that it was indeed something I needed to do and this feeling originated from my *yetzer tov*. I also understood that through saying Tehillim each day I was able to access *eitzah* that I needed. While the letters of my *Sefer Tehillim* did not glimmer for me with this *eitzah*, the *eitzah* did come to me in the form of the the old man's question and the posting about learning Gemara.

My attempts to learn Gemara in the past always failed because I tried to learn too much each day. In the past, I had twice tried to learn Daf Yomi, and later just an *amud* (page) a day. Yet, both of these proved to be too much for my schedule.

Inspired with this new *eitzah*, I resolved to settle for something more manageable; one page of the Artscroll Gemara a day (i.e. the English side). At this pace it would take me four or five days to learn just one *amud*, however, I figured my retention of the material would be much better. Resisting the inclination to rush and to order a new volume of Gemara online, I decided to use one that I already had on my shelf; one that I started but never finished – a tractate that a good friend had once recommended. Actualizing the strong inclination to learn Gemara that very day before the momentum was lost, I opened up *Maseches Sotah* to page 2a1 and began my new *seder limud* in Gemara – a *seder limud* I have dubbed *A Bissel Iz Oich Gut Yomi* (A Little is Also Good Yomi).

With a strong inclination to couple my learning of Gemara with a connected lesson in *Likutey Moharan*, I decided to “finish” *Likutey Moharan* II:73 and begin learning *Likutey Moharan* I:3 which contains some of the Rebbe's teachings on learning Gemara. Next week, I will tell you how I began going about it.