

Laziness

The **Chazon Ish** says that the worst of all the bad middot is laziness. It holds the most honored position amongst all the bad middot because it misdirects the very essence of life of a person.

The **Chovot Hatalmidim** says it is the one that causes the most damage and it is the most frequent bad midda found.

In **Mishle** it says, a person that slackens in their work, they are the brother of the destroyer.

The **Nefesh Hachaim** says in shaar alef, perek bet: in olam haba you will see what you could have become. There is an Abraham down on the world and an Abraham in the next world. They are going to show us what we could have been. The main claim against us is because of laziness. We all have desire and pride but in the next world, what you could have been minus what you are now equals laziness. This is the main claim against you for not fulfilling your potential. For example, the key to YU is time management: Sundays and Fridays do work. What is laziness? You don't get up, you stay in bed.

The **Chovot Hatalmidim** says laziness is a person who weakens and doesn't put in the full effort.

The **Baal Hatanya** says if a person has the power to learn bi'iyun and hes only learning bekiut then that is bitul torah! The problem with laziness is from a passuk in Iyuv, "adam le-amel yolad", man was created to work. Why does it say adam?

The **Maharal** and others say that man was created with the name adam, either "adameh lelyon"- I will be compared to G-d. Or, "adama"- dirt. If you want to be compared to G-d, you have to work. You have an obligation to become on high. The thing is because the passuk says adam le-amel yolad it gives something about human nature.

The basic human makeup is. What happens when you spend a whole day watching TV? You feel empty, you feel like you wasted something, you feel like you were dead. You are depressed and sad. You are not only commanded to work, if you don't work you don't fulfill your potential and you will be frustrated. Man was created with a need to be active. Is a lazy person happy or at best content? Are they really happy with their life? They can't be happy. Man was created to work, if you don't, your not expressing what you have inside.

This lecture has been typed by Daniel Agalar for <http://www.puretorah.com/>

The **Steipler Gaon** says that people create things to hide that frustration, entertainment and hobbies. We are very good at doing away with our need to work. Shlomo said 7 things about laziness, but Moshe Rabbeinu only said one. Moshe's statement is greater than all of Shlomo's statements. "Ki karov hadavar meod, beficha ubelivavcha lasoso". It's very close to you, in your heart and your mouth to do it. It wants to come out, let it come out. it's so close it's what you really want in your heart. What you really want is a relationship with Hashem. Let the natural expression come out. A non believer is called a kofer. What does a kofer mean? It means to cover something over.

Rav Wolfson says a Jew that's a non believer is covering himself, hes fooling himself, hes lying to himself. Your covering up what's really inside of you, It could be you're covering it up with your desires: big cars, houses, money. Just get up and act and you'll find you can do it. We all believe in G-d, once you believe in him than you know har Sinai was true. Why don't we get up and do his will? The heaviness of laziness pulls us down.

Rav Chaim Vital says there are 4 basic elements in this world: dust, fire, wind, and water. Each one are different types of midot. Fire- anger, person gets very angry. Dust- a person who's lazy. Why is it laziness? What are we from? We are from the dust. Our bodies naturally are going to sink, unless it's moved. This is the dust in spirituality- it's laziness.

The **Mesilas Yesharim** says that love of pleasure and laziness go together. Why are you lazy? Because you have a certain comfort/ pleasure. This love of pleasure is a major source of laziness and we have to recognize it as such. Much of laziness comes because you are looking for the wrong type of pleasure. A lazy person is so connected with the pleasure he cant move. It's crazy. It makes no sense, it's irrational. You know you'll have more pleasure when you're active. The tiny pleasure you get from staying in bed comes at the cost that you know you'll have more fun when you're active.

A lazy person lets their life go by. We're not only talking about torah. Laziness is the anti-thesis of meaningful living. There is another type of laziness that we don't think of as laziness.

The **Kotzker Rebbe** says sometimes people that act very fast are also lazy because there is also intellectual laziness. Sit down and think about things. A person that doesn't confront issues by carefully considering, understanding and then acting. Adam Harishon was lazy because he didn't think of what he was going to do. If he would have though it out it could be he wouldn't have done it. The effects of laziness is something we all regret. In the next world you will regret it. When you see what you could have been, it's going to destroy you.

Theres a gemara in **Bava Basra** that we're told that Moshe gave Yehoshua semicha. That

This lecture has been typed by Daniel Agalar for <http://www.puretorah.com/>

face of Moshe was like the Sun and the face of Yehoshua was like the moon. The elders said woe to such disgrace. Yehoshua, Moshe was the sun and your only the moon? So disgraceful!

The **Chofetz Chaim** says if I came to you and said your not Moshe Rabbeinu. Would that offend you? How could they think that Yehoshua would be the same as Moshe? The Chofetz Chaim answers that when the zekainim said that they weren't talking about Yehoshua, they were talking about themselves. Yehoshua was a little kid! The elders were much greater and smarter than him, but he was the one shining and not them. You know why? What did Yehoshua do? He never left Moshe's tent. He was the one that was always with him. He wasn't the smartest, the oldest or the wisest. But he was the one who was shining and not them. The embarrassment was for themselves not for Yehoshua.

The **Mesilas Yeshirim** says in the next world, you are going to be shocked because people you thought were worse than you it's going to turn out that they are way ahead of you. You are killing a part of who you are when you lie there in bed and when you're lazy.

There's a famous story with **Rav Yaakov Kamenetsky**. When his son turned bar-mitzvah, Rav Yaakov told him I'll give you a present if you only don't waste it. So Rav Yaakov gives him a watch. Don't waste your time, make the most of it. "Killing time". It really means you're killing yourself. Time isn't money, time is life says Rav Yisroel Salanter. People are worried about their money and don't worry about their time. Their time doesn't come back while money comes and goes. Time is gone forever.

The **Chidushei Harim** says "im lo achshav..eimasai". If not now, when will you get this chance again. Do you understand that every day you go by is another day you wont have again. What are you doing tonight? What are you doing tomorrow? How do you know you can't learn more? How do you know? Try it. Learning takes a lot of effort. **Rav Wolbe** says that learning Gemara is pounding your brain. It's hard to learn it. But without Torah there's no life. What stands in your way? Your not willing to put in your effort? Have you ever given anything 100% effort? If you did, you were probably successful. What about Torah? You know you can have fun getting up and doing something. It's so precious guys.

The gemara in **Megillah** says "Yagati ve lo mazati, al taamin". A person who says he tried and he failed, don't believe him, he's a liar. Because it's not possible. If you strive and put in the effort you will see the results. It's guaranteed! "Yagati umatzati taamin". A guy that doesn't put in any effort, of course he will fail. Relaxing is not what Yeshiva is. It's open-heart surgery. Why do I do the things that I do? Why am I like this? You're going to have to fix yourself. No pain, no gain. Just get up and

This lecture has been typed by Daniel Agalar for <http://www.puretorah.com/>

push yourself. You'll be able to taste Torah and see how great it is.