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First Draft

Talmud Assessment on מסכת ברכות

In this Talmud unit we discovered how to act during Tefillah and some laws about it. We also focused on the timing on when to say the prayer. Also, we learned about the story of Hannah which is found in Samuel I. The message in the story is when Eli thought she was drunk because she was praying so hard through her heart. We read a collection of Ma'asahs about how important it is to not get distracted when praying, even if a king walks by or you are being attacked by a snake.

The story of hannah determines many ideas such as the practise of reciting the amida or the way we to act when praying. In the story hannah is mistaken for being drunk while praying because she was moving her lips but not making any sound, this resulted in a law being made that you have to move your lips when prayer but not make and sound. Other halachots that come from the story hannah is that you must focus your heart when praying, also

you must sing in a appropriate voice . This comes from the part of the story when hannah was praying for a child.

One way the tannaim teach us about prayer is by making up an analogy to explain to us the halachah in an easier way to understand. After reading the stories they wrote, for instance the one about the snake wrapping itself around your leg, I felt that I understood the law in a different lense than I saw it before. One thing that is not similarity, between the amida and the sh'ama is that a lot of the rules about the Shama are about the deadlines of saying it, where a lot of the rules about the Amida are about how to act and behave while praying.

My personal goals for tefillah after reading the halachos is to focus my heart more when praying. In the story of hannah it teaches us to focus when praying. I also find it useful to think of the Ma'esah about a Chassid that is praying and then an officer shows up and greets him. The chassid doesn't respond and the officer doesn't comprehend. Eventually, the Chassid explains to the officer why he didn't answer his greeting, he starts off by telling another story about a king who is passing by and then the Chassid's friend

says hi. The Chassid poses a question to the officer, he says if there is a king passing by and your friend says hi would you say hi or would you and wait until the king passes. I think that the purpose of this story is to teach us the importance of focusing your heart when praying, so that even if someone as important as the king walks by you can't talk to them. The only law/story that makes sense to me, is the one where the men go out party and come home late but accidentally forget to say the Shema, and then they make a deadline to saying the Shema.

Over all in this unit i think that i not only learned a lot about the unpractised laws of tefillah but also got more interested in my prayer. After reading the stories the tannaim wrote i am more committed to praying and focusing because now i know the importance paying attention.