


מְצוֹת
לֹא תַעֲשֶׂה
#353

 We learn this mitzvah from Parshas Acharei: (ויקרא יא:ב)

אִישׁ אִישׁ אֵל כֹּל שְׂאֵר
בְּשָׂרוֹ לֹא תִקְרְבוּ
לְגִלּוֹת עֲרוּהָ

A person should be careful not to do things that might make him want to marry someone he's not allowed to get married to.

 The details of this mitzvah are explained in Mishnayos & Gemara: **Mesechta Yevamos perek Daled**

The Kedusha of Getting Married

In *Yiddishkeit*, getting married and having children is a very holy, very special thing. *Chassidus* teaches that a married man and woman are a reflection of two special kinds of *chayus* of Hashem in this *Gashmius* world!

Since it is so HOLY, the *Yetzer Hara* tries very hard to stop us from getting married in a way of *Kedusha*. All of the *mitzvos* and *halachos* we are learning aren't always easy to keep, but they make sure that our marriage is only in the way Hashem wants.

If you're young, you might not understand why it's so hard to keep these *mitzvos*. That's because Hashem doesn't give a person this *Yetzer Hara* until the body is more mature — usually at least 8 or 9, and often only around *Bar* or *Bas Mitzvah*.

One of the things the Rambam teaches us is that when a person reaches marriageable age, parents have a responsibility to help their children get married right away. This way, the *Yetzer Hara* won't bother them so much.

מצוות
עשה
#149

 We learn this mitzvah from Parshas Shemini: (דברים ז:יא)

זאת החיה אשר תאכלו וגו'

It is a *mitzvah* to check animals before we eat them, to make sure they are kosher kinds of animals.

 The details of this mitzvah are explained in Mishnayos & Gemara: Mesechta **Bechoros** and Mesechta **Chulin**

Rambam: Hilchos Isurei Biah, Hilchos Maachalos Asuros

PERAKIM CHOF-ALEF AND CHOF-BEIS, AND PEREK ALEF

In today's first two *perakim*, we finish the *halachos* about keeping marriages holy.

In *Perek Chof-Beis*, the Rambam speaks about the *halachos* of *Yichud*, which are important for everyone to know. *Yichud* means

that a man and woman who are not married should not be alone together in a private place. The *Chachomim* made these *halachos* to keep *aveiros* from happening.

PEREK ALEF

We also start to learn a new set of *halachos* — about keeping ourselves holy, through only eating kosher! The food that we eat is very important, because it becomes part of us.

In today's Rambam we learn about kosher and non-kosher animals and birds. Do you know what signs a kosher animal has to have?

- it chews its cud (swallows its food, but then goes back and chews it again and again)
- it has split hooves (hard feet that are split in half)

The Torah tells us the names of 24 birds that are not kosher, all other kinds of birds

are kosher. But if you don't know all of these birds and what they look like, you can only eat a kind of bird that you KNOW is kosher.

The Rambam also gives us signs to know what's a kosher or a non-kosher bird. One way to know that a bird is NOT kosher is if it attacks other birds or animals with its claws and eats them. Can you think why that kind of bird is not kosher?

We also learn the signs of kosher locusts, and kosher fish. (Do you know what signs a kosher fish has?)