

From the Rabbi's Desk
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Mishnah with a Twist [24]

The World Stands Upon Three Things Insights into Mishna Avot 1:2

על שלושה דברים העולם עומד:
על התורה, ועל העבודה, ועל גמילות חסדים:



THE WORLD STANDS ON THREE THINGS:
TORAH, THE SERVICE OF G-D,
AND DEEDS OF KINDNESS.

Background to Our Story

Great Assembly

◆ AI Overview

The Great Assembly (Hebrew: *Anshei Knesset HaGedolah*) was a legendary council of 120 sages, scribes, and prophets who led the Jewish people at the start of the Second Temple era (c. 516 BCE – 332 BCE). According to Jewish tradition, they bridged the critical gap between the end of biblical prophecy and the development of Rabbinic Judaism. [1, 2, 3, 4]

Shimon HaTzaddik (Simeon the Righteous)

◆ AI Overview

Shimon HaTzaddik (Simeon the Righteous) was a prominent Jewish High Priest (Kohen Gadol) during the Second Temple period, approximately in the 4th to 3rd century BCE. He is revered as one of the last members of the Great Assembly (*Anshei Knesset HaGedolah*), serving as a vital bridge between the era of prophets and the era of the Sages (Mishnah).

The Text: Mishna Avot 1:21

שמעון הצדיק היה משגיחי כנסת הגדולה. הוא היה אומר, על שלושה דברים העולם עומד, על התורה ועל העבודה ועל גמילות חסדים:

Shimon the Righteous was one of the last of the men of the great assembly. He used to say: the world stands upon three things (three pillars): the Torah, the Temple service (avodah), and the practice of acts of loving-kindness (*Gemilut chasadim*).



Explaining the Text

What's going on here? (The sequence of events)

Comprehension and Analysis Questions

? How would you define *Torah* in a narrow sense?

? How would you define *Torah* in a broad sense?

Answer 1 _____

Answer 2 _____

Answer 3 _____

Answer 4 _____

Extra Bonus ? How would you define the *Temple service* (avodah) in a narrow sense?

? How would you define the *Temple service* (avodah) in a broad sense?

Answer 1 _____

Answer 2 _____

Answer 3 _____

Answer 4 _____

Bonus ? How would you define the practice of acts of loving-kindness (*Gemilut chasadim*) in a narrow sense?

? How would you define the practice of loving-kindness (*Gemilut chasadim*) in a broad sense?

Answer 1 _____

Answer 2 _____

Answer 3 _____

Answer 4 _____



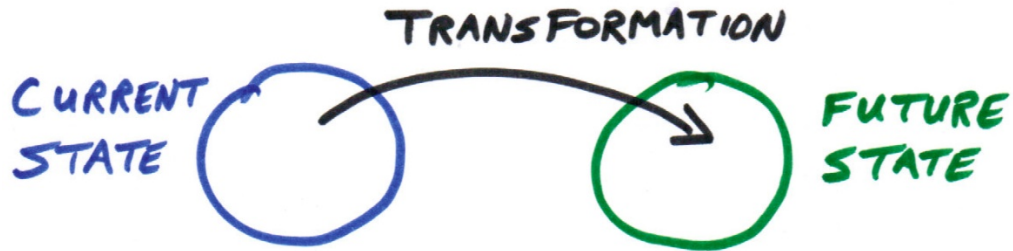
? How could you redefine these three pillars in a way that would be relatable to non-observant Jews or non-Jews?

"The Twist" – Or the Lessons We Can Learn from This Text

- !** The importance of having "pillars" in your life.

Torah, Avodah, Chesed.

Simple, yet challenging



Together we can transform how it is into how it should be.

- The Shul with a Pool
- The Last Shul Standing
- The Shul with More Members in Queens
 - A Landmark of Jewish Queens
 - The Shul with Most Programs