

Daniel Jeremy Silver Collection Digitization Project

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MS-4850: Daniel Jeremy Silver Papers, 1972-1993.

Series III: The Temple Tifereth-Israel, 1946-1993, undated. Sub-series A: Events and Activities, 1946-1993, undated.

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Adult Sunday School, correspondence and speeches, 1967.

Editorial Features Inc.

December 11, 1967

Rabbi Daniel Jeremy Silver
The Temple
University Circle and Silver Parkway
Cleveland, Ohio

Dear Rabbi Silver:

Attached is a copy of the script for the "On Location" radio program which featured you or your organization.

Inasmuch as we are able to repeat some of the better shows from time to time, we'd like to consider repeating this one.

We realize times change...but since the show is already recorded, we cannot alter the script, except to make a small cut if necessary.

Please initial and return the enclosed postal card if the program is all right to repeat as is.

Sincerely,

EDITORIAL FEATURES, INC.

Jerome F. Turk

President

JFT/mm

PROGRAM #1279

ANNCR: And now ... The Illuminating Company invites you to ... listen!

SH.VER: The rabbinate is a statement of religious competence. In my family we have had rabbis in almost...in a direct line for the last six generations.

NARR: Rabbi Daniel Jeremy Silver is a teacher...that's the meaning of his title which distinguishes him as an expert in Jewish tradition. He is a rabbi here at The Temple...meaning that he chooses to study the messages of the holy men of the past relating them to the problems of the present. His mission is to propagate the search for truth, a thirst for good judgment and the will to do good.

MUSIC: UP AND UNDER

ANNCR: On Location...the sounds and stories of a great city, its skillful people and its significant events...presented by...The Illuminating Company.

MUSIC: UP AND OUT

NARR: According to the young, dark-haired rabbi, The Temple -- built in 1922 by his father here at the northwestern end of University Circle -- stimulates both prayer and thought. Under the Byzantine dome of the banked, 2,000-seat sanctuary, Reform Jews come from miles around to Friday night Vesper Service, Sabbath worship and Sunday service. Standing or sitting...in prayer, in song, in attentive silence, they face the pulpit in front of the flickering eternal light, the candle symbolizing the undying tradition of Israel. They worship beneath the words of their tradition written above the curtain before the ark

containing the sacred scrolls of the five books of Moses, called the Torah.

The words, written in Hebrew, are: "Hear, O Israel, the Lord our God. The

Lord in One."

NARR: The glory of Israel is the official name of this 117-year old congregation led by Rabbi Silver. The Temple is the only synagogue within the city.

"We belong here because we couldn't serve our 2,350 member families or the neighboring community as well in any other location," says Rabbi Silver of this, one of the nation's largest Jewish congregations.

Members of the congregation and students from the University Circle area often use the Temple Library with its 15,000 volumes comprising one of the finest collections of English language material relating to Jews and Judaism.

Alongside it are the Museum of Jewish Ritual Art and the new Abba Hillel Silver Memorial Archives containing the works and recorded sermons of the internationally-known spiritual leader and scholar.

This year, 1,400 children are enrolled in the classes taught in the 44 class-

Teaching in the classroom, from the pulpit, and in print, Rabbi Daniel Jeremy Silver has served here at The Temple for eleven years. He is also editor of the Central Conference of American Rabbi's Journal, published quarterly.

Stimulating the hearts and minds of those he teaches is his goal. "On what subject?" we asked.

SILVER: Some deal with the basic themes of Judaism as they have evolved over the long centuries. Cthers begin with the critical problems of the day...the questions of war and reace, with questions of civil rights, with the questions

of poverty, with the questions of public policy...and try and judge these within the light of the values of the tradition.

NARR: In the apocryphal Book of Sirach, the wise man is called him who meditates on the Law of the Most High God. That's the role of the rabbi, the teacher...exemplified by Daniel Jeremy Silver...here in the best location in the nation.

MUSIC: UP TO CLOSE

CLEARANCE: Rabbi Daniel Jeremy Silver

The Temple

University Circle and Silver Parkway

Cleveland, Ohio (791-7755)



Lovel I

THE ETHICS OF CHILD-PARENT RELATIONS

WRHS © 690

Newly Revised by RANBI CHAIM FOTOK

December 1965

' The Ethics of Child-Parent Relations - 1 "

of all the people you know, the ones you probably know best are the members of your family. And of all the people to whom you owe a debt of gratitude, the ones to whom you owe the greatest debt are your parents, for they gave you the most precious possession you have -- your life.

No living being spends as many years under the care of parents as we humans do. In no species does it take as long for the child to grow up and assume his place in the adult world as in our own.

The enormous length of time a child spends under the guidance and protection of his parents brings about great rewards -- a sense of sutual responsibility, an swareness of love, a careful preparation for the future, and the experience of sharing intimately in the lives of other human beings. It can also bring about great tensions -- for it is often difficult for the child to understand the world of the parent, just as it is frequently difficult for the parent to enter completely into the world of the child.

Newspaper headlines are filled with the results of these tensions -tesnage gangs, delinquency, drug addiction. It is not always an easy
matter for a parent to understand and fulfill his responsibilities toward
the child; nor is it always clear to a child how he ought to behave toward
his parent.

The Jewish teenager living in the twentieth century may often wonder whether or not his tradition has anything to say about the relationship of parents to children and children to parents, and whether or not any of the teachings of the tradition may still be applicable to the often bewildering complexities of present-day family life.

There is a further aspect to this situation which is particularly vexing to many people today. The discoveries of modern medicine have -helped langthen bussen life, and the Jewish theneger she grows up and

marries and begins a family life of his own may often find himself in an all too common contemporary predicament: How should an adult son or daughter behave toward aged parents? How should grandchildren behave toward grandparents? Is there knything in the teachings of the tradition that can point the way toward solving some of the many dilemmas of tweatisth century family life?

It is the purpose of this brochure to show you that the tradition has a great deal to say about this very vital aspect of human life.

Our teachers will be the Rabbis of the Talmud.

Obligations of Parents to Children

You hear much these days about the responsibility of children to parents. Your parents are probably always telling you that it is your obligation and responsibility to respect them, to take care of your younger brothers and sisters, to go on errands for the family. You probably become weary at times of hearing, over and over again, that you have a "responsibility" and an "obligation" to your parents. You might often wonder what sort of responsibility and obligation your parents have to you.

The Rabbis were very clear on this point. Parents are obligated to see to it that their children receive an education:

מַנְיָּה לְלַמָּד אָת בָּן בְנוֹ, שֵׁנָאָמַר "וְהוֹדְעָהָם לְבָנִיב וְלִבְנִי בַנִיב". (ס"ע, יו"ד, סי" רס"ה)

. It is a commandment to teach a son, for it is éaid: "And you shall make it known to your children and to your children's children."

(Shulchan Aruch, Yoreh Deah)

This obligation rests not only upon the father but upon the mother as well:

אכיצ ואל שמוש חובת מפלי. (אוצר בינים ומנחדהם !) בפי בלבננ לפננג מנם באם חופת בחיבים בנים מנמפרי המפע בני מיפר pe

- 3 -

We have learned by tradition that the Mother is also responsible for the education of her children, as it is said: "Hearken my son to the ethics of your father and do not forseke the Torsh of your mother."

(Otser Dimin Vnickegim I)

Perents are not only responsible to see to it that their children receive a good education; they must also see to it that they receive the kind of education that will equip them to take a productive place in society:

רַבּי יְהוּדָה אוֹמֵר: כַּל שָׁאִינוֹ כְּלְמֵד אָת בְנוֹ אוּמְנוּת כְּאֵלֹה מְלְמְדוֹ לִיסְמְהַת. (קדושין, כמ:א)

Rabbi Judah says: "Anyone who does not teach his son a craft may be regarded as if he is teaching him to steal."

(Riddusima, 29a)

But even this was not regarded by the Rabbis as being a sufficient fulfillment of parental responsibility. Seeing to it that the child receives a good academic and professional training is hardly enough.

The parent must also see to it that the child receives moral guidance as well:

יזהר האב להרחיק את בני משקר. (סוכה, מויב)

The father should be careful to draw his son away from falsehood.

(Succah, 45b)

But this must not be done cruelly;

של הַשֶּב לְיַמֵר אָח בְנוֹ כְיֵי לְהִישִיב דְרְמוֹ... אַבְל בְּדְרָהְ נוֹעַם וְלֹא בְּאַכְּזְרִיוּת,

ואוצר דינים ומנהגים, ו: על מי מ"ק י"ז)

It is the father's duty to rebuke his son in order to improve his

smite his older son.

(Otzar Jinim Uminhagim, I)

Parents are also responsible to see to it that their children are adequately prepared to take what is probably the single most important step in life:

הַאָב חַנָיב לְהַשִּׁיא אָת בְּבִיי הְבנוֹתְיוֹ... יְלְנַלְּבִישׁ אָת בְּהוֹ לְפִי בְבוֹדֶא

The Father is responsible to marry off his sons and his daughters, and to clothe his daughter as befits her, and to provide her with a dowry.

(Shulche B Aruch, Orech Cheyim)

It should be pointed out that though some of these mources are taken from medieval Rabbinic literature, they are all based upon the teachings of the Rabbin of the Talmud. This is not altogether the case with the next statement. During the period of the Talmud, education was generally geared toward the male child. There were a number of women who were astonishingly will educated -- but this was nare. As was the case with the entire world, from ancient to relatively recent times, formal education was oriented toward the male children. Do this connection, a statement that reflects a point of view that is later than that of the Rabbinic Period is of considerable interest:

הנוך הוקרות נמסר לראס ולחנה בדרה הישרה... לארי ג ולחסור ולבשל. בנו חלמד אותן מדת צ.יענת ועניני אמונה הנוגעים ל יערות. (אוצר דינים ומנהגים, 139)

The education of young girls is entrusted to the mother and she must educate them in the proper manner... to sew, and ito cook. Also she shall teach them the quality of moderny and those traditional practices applicable to yourg girls..

(Olzar Dinim Um nhagim, 139)

You might keep this statement carefully in mind, because we will be returning to it at the end of this brochure.

It ought to be clear enough by now that as far as the Rabbis were concerned a parent is responsible for the physical, spiritual, intellectual, and economic welfare of his children -- for every aspect of their lives. No parent has a right to deny this responsibility.

Obligations of Children to Parents

Now let us see how the Rabbis spelled out the obligations of the child to the parent. How we fulfill these obligations is clearly dependent upon the attitude a child has toward his parents. Assuming the attitude is a positive one, it can take two forms: a sense of awa bordering on fear, and a feeling of respect. Here is how the Rabbis distinguished between the two:

שנה רבותינה: איזהה מורא ואיזהה בבוד? מורא - לא עומר במקומו. ולא
יושב במקומו, ולא סותר את דבריו, ולא מכריעו; בבוד - מאכיל המשקה,
מלביש המכסה, מכנים המוציא.

(קדושין לא:ב)

Our Rabbis taught: What is "fear" and what is "honor"?

"Fear" means that he (the son) must neither stand in

his (the father's) place nor sit in his place, nor contradict

his words, nor tip the scales against him (that is, if his

father is in a dispute with another person, his son must not

side with his opponent). "Honor" means that he must give

him food and drink, clothe and cover him, lead him in and out.

to one southert (In the Bible, the second paras follows

Commandataly after the first, one Tropes, 10:17, 13,3 to

(Kiddushin, 31b)

Read the passage again. Can you determine what the difference is between fear and honor (or respect)? What point is this passage trying to make?

Here is another Rabbinic passegs about honor and respect:

בְּדִיל כְּבּיּדְ אָב וָאָם שִּקְאֶדְיּפּוֹ תַקְּדִישׁ בְּרִּיּהְ חוּא יוֹתְדְ הְּבְּבּוֹדוֹ,
בְּיִיל כְּבּיּדְ אָב וָאָם שִּקְאֶדְיּפּוֹ תַקְּדִישׁ בְּרִּיּהְ חוּא יוֹתְדְ הְּבְּבּוֹדוֹ,
בְּיִירְ מִנְּחִי מְטִיּרִ, אֲבְל בְּכְבוֹדְ אָב וָאֵם נְאָפֵר "בַּבִּדְ אָח אְבִיהְ וְאָח חִיְיבּ, וְאָם
בְּיִירְ מֵנְחִים (יְרִוּשלְטִי, פאה, א)

The honor of father and mother is so great that God prizes it more than his own honor, for regarding honor of God it is said:
"Honor the Lord from your wealth"-if you have wealth you are obliged to do so, and if not you are exempt; but regarding honor of father and mother it is said: "Honor your father and your mother" - even if you are a beggar.

(Yezushalmi, Peah. 1)

"Bonor" was not merely an abstract word for the Rabbis. It was spelled out by them vary carefully in terms of the everyday lives and needs of human beings. Note this passage:

"כַּבֵּד אָת אָבִיךְ וְאָת אִמְרָ"... "לֹא תַּרְצַח" - בָּה עִנְיָדְ זָה אָצְל זָה? אָלָא לְלַמִּרְכָּ: בַּטְלְדֹּיּתְם וְאִיךְ צַרִיהָ לוֹפֵר בְיִקְנוּתָם - כְאַלוּ הוא רוֹצֵהַ כְּל יְפֶיוּ הַמְקוֹם. בַּיַלְדִּיּתְם וְאִיךְ צַרִיהָ לוֹפֵר בְיִקְנוּתָם - כְאַלוּ הוא רוֹצֵהַ כְל יְפֶיוּ הַפְּקוֹם. רַבַּרְ נָאָמַר "בַּבִד"... וִ"לֹא תִרְצַח".

(תנא דבי אליתו, כו)

"Monor thy father and thy mother"... "Thou shalt not surder." Why are these two situations placed so close to one another? (In the Bible, the second verse follows immediately after the first; see Excess, 20:12, 13.) To teach you: If a man has food in his house and does not share it with his father and mother, even when there

young and most certainly (when they are old, then he is considered as if he were an habitual murderer. Therefore, the verses "Honor..." and "Thou shalt not commit murder" stand next to one snother.

(Tane dibei Sliyshu, 26)

But the Rabbis went further than this. It was not the act alone that reflected a sense of respect toward parents -- it was also how the act was performed. Consider this very important statement:

יש פַאַכִּיל אָת אָבִיו פְּסִּכּּסוֹת וְיוֹרֶשׁ בִיחָנֹס וְיֵשׁ מַסְחִינוֹ בָרָחַיִיס וְיוֹרָשׁ בִיחָנֹס וְיֵשׁ מַסְחִינוֹ בָרָחַיִיס וְיוֹרָשׁ בִיחָנֹס וְיֵשׁ מַסְחִינוֹ בָרָחַיִיס וְיוֹרָשׁ בִיחָנֹס (מַעְשָּׁה בְּאָחָד שָׁהָיָה פַאָּכִיל לָאָבִיוּ אַרְיוֹ: "כְּנִי, הַלְּלֹה פְּנֵיוֹ לְרָץ" אָמֵר לוֹ: "וְּיְנִי בְּאָרָי פְּסִיּסִס. פַּפָּס אַחַת אָמַר לוֹ אָבִיוּ: "כְּנִי, הַלְּלֹה פְּנֵיוֹ לְרָץ" אָמֵר לוֹ: "וְיִנְי בְּיִבְּי מִשְׁהַ, שְׁמָּר לוֹ אָבִיוּ וְשׁוֹחְפִים!" נְסְבָּא פַאַכִּיל אָח אָבִיוּ פְּטִּיּטוֹ וְיוֹרָשׁ בֵּן עֲדְוֹ? פַּפְשָּׁה בְּאָחָד (סְבָּיָה שּוֹחֵן בְּרָחִייִם וְיוֹרָשׁ בֵּן עֵּדְוֹ? פַפְשָּׁה בְּאָחָד (סְבָּיָה שוֹחֵן בְּרָחִייִם וְיוֹרָשׁ בֵּן עֵּדְוֹ? פַּפְשָׁה בְאָחָד (סְבָּיָה שוֹחֵן בְּרָחִייִם וְיוֹרָשׁ בַּן עֵּבְוֹת הַמְּלְהָ): אָס יַבִּיעַ לִידִי בִּזְיוֹן אֶחְבָּיָה בְּרָחִייִם (לְעְבּוֹרָת הַמְלָּהְ): אָס יַבִּיעַ לִידִי בִּזְיוֹן אֶחְבָּיָה בְּרָתְיִם (לְעָבוֹרָת הַמְלָּהְ): אָס יַבִּיעַ לִידִי בִּזְיוֹן אֶחְבָּיָה וְבִּי וְלֹא אַתָּה. וְבָּי בִּיִיוֹן מְלְּכִוֹת הַלְּלִה וְלִיתְי בְּלְפוֹת אַלְּפָּה אֵנִי וְלֹא אַתָּה." נִפְּצֵא מְּפְּחִינוֹ בְּרָחִיים וְלֹא אַתָּה, וְנִים לִיוִי מִלְּלִוֹת אַלְּהָת אֵנִי וְלֹא אַתָּה." נִפְּצֵא מַפְּחִינוֹ בְּרָחִים בְּוֹבִי עִלְבִי וְלֹית בְּלְנִים וְיֹלִית בִּן עִרְן.

(ירוטלמי, מאה, ה"א)

A man may feed his father on fattened chickens and inherit hell (as his reward), and another may put his father to work in a mill and inherit Paradise. How is it possible that a man might feed his father fattened chickens and inherit Hell? It once happened that a man used to feed his father fattened chickens. Once his father said to him: "My son, where did you gat these?" He answered: "Old man, old man, eat and be

he feeds his father on fattened chickens, but he inherits Hell.

How is it possible that a man might put his father to work in
a mill and inherit Paredise? It once happened that a men was
working in his mill. The king decreed millers should be brought
to work for him (for the king). He said (to his father):

"Yather, go and work in the mill in my place (and I will go
to work for the king). For it may be (that the workers will
be) ill-treated; in which case let me be ill-treated in place
of you. And it may be (that the workers will be) beaten; in
which case let me be beaten instead of you." In such an
instance, he puts his father to work in a mill, but he inherits
Paredise.

(Yerushelmi, Peah, 1)

Are there any limits to the respect one ought to show one's parents?
Here is an interesting story by way of answer to that question.
Note that the hero of the story is a non-Jew:

שׁמֵלה לוֹ לְרַב עָלָאוּ עַד הִיבָן כְּבּרְד אָב וְאִם? אָפַר לְהָם: בְּאוּ וּרְאוּ מָה עְשְׂה בְּקְפִים הַרְּאַב הָיִנְיָה שְׁמוֹ בְּאָשׁר תְּבְּשׁר תְּבְּשׁר תְּבְּשׁר תְּבְּשׁר תְּבְּשׁר תְּבְּשׁר תְּבְּשׁר תְּבְשׁר תְּבְּשׁר תְּבְשׁר תְבְשׁר תְּבְשׁר תְבְשׁר תְבְּשׁר תְבְשׁר תְבְשׁר תְבְּשׁר תְבְשׁר תְבְשׁר תְבְשׁר תְבְשׁר תְבְשׁר תְבְשׁר תְבְּשׁר תְבְּשׁר תְבְּשׁר תְבְּשׁר תְבְּשׁר תְבְּשׁר תְבְשׁר תְבְשׁר תְבְשׁר תְבְּשׁר תְבְשׁר תְבְּשׁר תְבְּשׁר תְבְשׁר תְבְשׁר תְבְּשׁר תְבְּשׁר הְבִּיוֹ נִילֹא בִּעְרוֹי.

They asked Rabbi Ila: "How far should one carry the principle of honoring one's parents?" He replied: "Go and see what one Gentile did in Ashkelon, whose name was Dime son of Natime. One time the sages requested merchandism from him which was worth 60,000 gold dimerim,

but since the key (to the marchandies) was resting under the head of his father who was asleep, he would not trouble him, :

(Kiddushin, 3la)

Here is how another Rabbi responded to that question:

שאלב את ר' אליפורו עד היבן מבדד אב נאסף אפר להם: כהי שונול שרוחי של דינורים ויורשנו לים בשניו ואינו פקלימו. (קדושיז, לבוא)

They asked Ribbi Eleazar: "How far does the principle of honor of father and mother extend?" He replied; "Even if the father should take a purse of money and throw it into the sea in his son's presence, the son should atill not reproach him."

(Kiddushin, 32a)

The Rabbis were fond of telling stories which exemplified ideal behavior toward parents;

אמו 'של ר' פרפון יְרְדָה לְפֵיֵל לְתוֹך תַצֵּרָה בִשׁבָת וְנִפְפַק שִרְפַדְיוּם בּיּ שלוו. הלך ר' פרפון והנים שחי ידיו מחת פרסוחים והיחה מהלכת פליהן עד שהגיפה למשתה. פעם אחת חלה ונכנסג חבמים לבקרו. אפרה להם: "החפללה על ר׳ פַרְפוֹן בְנִי, פָׁהוּא נוֹהֵג בִי כָבוֹד יוֹתר מַדָאי." אַמְרוּ לָהּ: "מַה עשה לְהָיִי" ספרה לַהם אותו הַמַעטה. אַמרה לָהו "אִפִּילה עוֹשָה כֵּן אָלֶף שִּׁבְּים, עדין לַחַצִי כבוד מאמרה החובה לא הביע."

(ירושלמי, מאה, מ"א)

Rebbi Tarfon's mother once walked in the courtyard on the Sabbath and her sandal broke. Rabbi Tarfon went and placed his two hands under her feet so that she walked on them until she reached her bed. One time he became ill, and the sages went in to wisit him. She said to them: "Pray for Rabbi Tarfon, my son, for he gives me an excessive amount of honor." They said to her: "What did he do to you?" She told them of the event. They said to her: "Had he done so even a thousand times, he still would not have achieved half of the honer which the Torah coquire- " (Yerushalmi, Peah, 1)

Conflicts in the Home

Family conflicts are inevitable. Often they seem impossible to solve. Suppose, for example, you received conflicting requests from your parents. Whom would you obey? Here is how some of the Rabbis responded to this problem:

בְּבֵל מַקּוֹם הזא (הַתּוֹרָה) מַקּרִים כְבוֹד אָב לָאֵם וּבְמַקוֹם אָחֶד הוא אוֹמֵרוּ "אִישׁ (נראשית רבה, א) אמו ואביר חיראר", מגיד שטניהם שקולין. Throughout the Torah, (wherever father and mother are mentioned together) the father is mentioned first, except in one place where it is stated: "A man shall fear his mother and father." This teaches us that both are equally deserving of the same respect.

(Bereshit Rabbah, 1)

Insofar as respect is concerned, then, one must respect both perents equally. But in the case of a conflict --

אבא אומר השקיני פים ואפא אומרת תשקיני פים, איזה פהם קודם? הַנַח בְבוֹד אָמֶךְ וַעֲפָּה כְבוֹד אָבִיךְ, שָאַתָה וְאָמֶךְ חַנֵיבִים בְּבְבוֹד אָבִיך. (סדושין, לא:א)

Father says: "Give me water," and mother says: "Give me water." Which one of them must be obeyed first? Put aside the honor of your mother and fulfill the honor of your father, because both you and your mother are obligated to honor your father.

(Kiddushin, 3la)

What is your reaction to this teaching? Do you agree with . it? How do you resolve similar conflicts in your family?

Interestingly enough, when a situation existed that posed a danger to life, another sort of hierarchy was jut into practice;

היה הוא וְאַכִיר וַרָבוֹ בַּשְבִי, הוא קוֹרֶכ לְרָבוֹ, וְרַבוֹ קוֹרֶם לְאבירוּ אָמוֹ (הוריות, יג:א) קוֹדְמָת לְכוּלָם. He and his father and his teacher were held captive (by non-Jews), he precedes his teacher (in being ransomed), his teacher precedes his father, and his mother precedes them all.

(Horoyoth, 13a)

In a conflict of loyalties between a father and a teacher, the Rabbie taught:

יוני דַרָה הַבּן לְּפַנִי הַרַב, קוֹדָם אח האב בְּכֶל פְקוֹם, מִפְנִי שִׁהרא וְאָבִיוּ וֹנִיבִים בִּבְבוֹד רַבּוֹ.

If the son gained much wisdom (while he sat) before his teacher, his teacher comes always before his father, since both he and his father are bound to honor the teacher.

(Mishna Krituth, 6:9)

New consider this conflict between a mother and a son:

ממו של ר' יששעאל באה ושבלה עלוי לרבוחנו, אסרה להם: "בערג (20) ביטשעאל בני, שאינו נותג בי בבוד" באותה שעה נתברכם פניהם של רבוחינה, ממרף: "אפשר איז ר' יששעאל נותג בבוד באבותיו?" אמרג לה: מה עשה לה? המרה: בשהוא יוצא מבית המדרש אני מבששת לרחוץ רבליו... ואינו מניח לי" אמרף לו: "הואיל והוא רצונה הוא בבורה"

(ירושלפי פאה, מ"א, ה"א)

The mother of Rabbi Yishmael came and angrily objected to the rabbis. She said to them: "Rebuke Yishmael my son, for he does not respect me!"

The Rabbis paled with embarrassment and said: "Does Rabbi Yishmael really not respect his parents?" "Just what did he do?" She said: "When he leaves the Beth-Hamidrash I request to wash his feet... and he does not allow me." They said to him (to Rabbi Yishmael): "Since such is her will, let her be honored in this way."

(Yarushalmi Peah, Ch. 1:1)

Just in case you think that this is a somewhat strange story, consider how you might apply it to the following wary real situation:

An aging mother loves to serve lengthy meals to her grown son every time he visits her and does not allow him to help her with the dishes. The son is dismayed by the time and effort expended by his mother in preparing for him, and wonders whether he should make less frequent visits to ber.

What do you think he ought to do?

Can you think of incidents in your life when there has been a conflict between what your parents and your grandparents urge you to do? Whom are you more obligated to obey -- your parents or your grandparents?

Here is what the Rabbis teach:

ווֹיִיב אדם בכבוד אביו יותר מכבוד זפגו.

(בראשית רבה, פד)

A man has a greater obligation to honor his father than his grandfather.

(Berashit Rabah, 84)

Why do you think the Rabbis say that the parent should be obeyed rather than the grandparent when the two conflict?

How we come to a very serious problem. The biblical commandment "Homor thy father and thy mother" is a brief statement which is not further elaborated. The commandment "Thou shalt fear the Lord thy God" is also brief. The teenager who associates with Jewish youth movements, who attends Jewish summer camps, observes Jewish law, and upholds Jewish values often lives in a home where his parents do not share his interest in Judaism. It will sometimes occur that he is asked by his parents to perform a task which is in conflict with that which he believes God demands of him.

"Honor thy father and thy mother" and "Thou shalt fear the Lord thy God" may sometimes be in direct conflict. Note how the Rabbis

reacted to such a situation:

נְצְבֵיל יְתָא כְבּיד אָב נָאָט דוֹתָה שַבְּח? מֵלְבִיר לוֹפֵר "אִישׁ אמן נְאֵבִיר תִירָאוּ וְאָת שַבְּחוֹתֵי תִשְׁבוֹרוּ" כְּלְבֵּט חִיִיבִים בְּכְבוֹדִי.

Should a person maintain that the homor of father and mother suspends
the Sabbath? The Bible seys (in the same verse): You shall fear your
father and mother and observe my Sabbath - all of you are obligated with
respect to my homor.

(Yebsmoth, 5b)

The following statements pertain to similar conflicts of loyalty:

שנית אני כבוד אבא ועושה את הפגנה, שאני ואבא תייבים בפצנה. שנית אני כבוד אבא ועושה את הפגנה, שאני ואבא תייבים בפצנה. שיחי כן יהודה אופרן אם אפשר לעשות על ידי אחרים - מעשה על ידי אחרים ונלך הוא בכבוד אביו.

(קדושין, לבוא)

Eleanar ben Matya says: "If Father says: "Get me a drink of water," and at the same time (I have) another mitzvah to perform, I neglect the honor of my father and perform the mitzvah, for I and my father are obligated to perform the mitzvah." Isi ben Judah says: "If others are svailable to perform the mitzvah, then they should do so, so that he should obey his father's command."

(Kiddushin, 32a)

בְּל יִטְאָפַר לָבְ אָבִיךְ חַיָיב אַמָּה לְטְדּוֹעֵן אַבָּל אִם אָמַר לָבְוּ בוֹא וְנִשְּׁתְּוָח בֹּי

(ילקום, מכלי, תחק"ם)

Everything which your father says to you, you are obliged to obey.

But if he says to you: "Let us bow down to idols," you sust not obey him,

lest you become an apostate.

(Yalkut, Mishlei)

Here is another statement:

שנינה: "אים אם וואביר תיראה" - יכל אמר לו אביר: "הפמא", חיראה ואת שבחותי תשמרה אני ח' אלתיכם" - דלכם חייבים אמו ואביר תיראה ואת שבחותי תשמרה אני ח' אלתיכם" - דלכם חייבים בקבורי.

We learned: "Thou shalt fear thy father and mother." It is possible that his father shall say to him: "Defile yourself," or, "Do not repent." Should be obey him? Scripture, therefore, states: "Thou shalt fear thy father and mother and observe my commandments, I am the Lord thy God." Each and every one of you stands under the obligation to honor me.

(Yebsmoth, 6g)

Note carefully, however, how one is supposed to react to a parent in such a conflict situation:

דחביא. הרי שהיה אביו עובר על דברי חורה, לא יאמר לו: "אבא, עברת על דברי חודה", אלא אומר לו: "אבא, בה בחוב בחובה?" סוף סוף, היינה הה! אלא אומר לו: "מקרא כחוב בחודה בה הוא".

We have learned: If one's father transgresses a precept of the Torah he should not say to him: "Pather, you have transgressed a precept of the Torah." He should rather say: "Father, does this correspond to what it says in the Torah?" Are not these two statements the same? Rather he should say: "The verse from the Torah states such and such."

(Sanhedrin, 81a)

How consider the following problems very carefully. How would you resolve them in the light of what you have learned about the Rabbinic attitudes toward child-parent relations?

- 1. Your father does not like some of your friends. He questions their moral character and urgas you to break with them.
- 2. Your high school senior prom is scheduled to take place on Friday night. Your father suggests that you go on the grounds that it is an important experience in the life of a teenager and that there are many other Sabbaths that you can observe, whereas the dance will occur only once.
- 3. Your mother is cleaning the house and wishes you to help her. But your friend is seriously ill and you were planning to visit her.
- 4. A daughter desires a college education. The father hesitates, feeling that girls do not need extensive education, and that his daughter should look for a job and eventually marry. Can any of the rabbinic . statements mentioned in this brochure help to resolve the conflict?
- 5. You live in Pennsylvania and have just become sixteen years old. You ask your parents for permission to obtain a driver's license. Your father feels wery strongly that you are still too young to drive a car, despite what Pennsylvania law has to say on the matter. Your mother favors your considering the issue carefully and making up your own mind.
- 6. Your parents have planned a program of after-school activities for you which will consist of: piano lessons on Monday, dance lessons on Tuesday, and drawing lessons on Wednesday. They fael that these activities will enable you to become a "well rounded" teenager, that you will "fit better" into the teenage society. You have limited after-school time remaining once you are finished with your school homework, and want to continue with your Hebrew studies after school.

PARENT - Child Tensions

are not unique in our own age, even the tensions of delinquency are not unique or new to our day. If you believe that this is so, I invite you to pick up the works of Mr. Charles Dickens, to open his novel of Oliver Twist, and to read there the escapades of Fagin and of his band of young toughs. And if you believe so, I invite you to open the pages of any classical history to read there of the council meetings of ancient Athens or of ancient Alexandria or of ancient Rome and you will see writ large in the pages of that history, the wail and the complaint of the city fathers that bands of young people are terrorizing their citizens at night and that it is no longer safe to be second after dark on the streets. And if you still feel that delinquency is a unique problem of our day, I invite you to open the pages of our Talmud, to read there the wail of one of the ancient teachers of our people, Eliazer Bar-Yehuday, a sage who complained that it was easier to raise an olive tree in the parched, arid, sandy soil of upper Galilee, than it was to raise in all of Israel a single strong and sturdy and upright son.

No, these problems which face us today are recurring and recurrent problems. They are not ours alone and not unique to our generation. And so I speak today of the problems which young people cause their parents and the problems which parents cause their young people -- not out of any sense of urgency, not out of any feeling that there are certain elements in our social living which must be condemned -- but simply because I feel that raising a family requires understanding and that being raised in a family requires understanding, and that there is a great deal of wisdom and understanding which the ancient diterature of our people can bring to bear on these tensions and on these problems.

Now, the problems of raising young people occur on many levels, and I would concern myself this morning primarily with the young people with whom I work and with their parents with whom I am associated. There are, of course, the problems of neglectful parents and neglected children. There are the problems of abnormal parents and abnormal children. These, I would today for the moment, lay aside. I would concern myself principally with well-meaning and wellintentioned parents and with young people who seek to grow, desire to mature, desire to become adult.

The first point that I would like to make this morning is one which is taken from an illustration drawn from our Rible. When the children of Israel came to the foot of Mount Sinai, God propositioned them as to their willingness to accept the Ten Commandments. He was not willing to put upon them the yoke of obligation to this very strict and demanding messad law unless they signified their willingness to accept these responsibilities and abide by them. The answer which the children of Israel gave God on that occasion has always been taken by our teachers as an important indication to men as to the attitude they should take in life. Israel, it is said, answered,

ISRAEL ANSWERE PAI Deeds . We will do and we will listen." Deeds are more important than words -- that we live by our moral principles, that we accept them and practice them is more important than that we preach them or mouth them or clothe them in beautiful phrases. There are many who make in life great promises but who do little, and there are many who seldom speak of moral principle but are seldom found wanting in moments of moral crisis. It is these latter whom our tradition always holds up for acclaim.

Now we are concerned, each of us, as parents, as educators, with teaching our young people the morals, the attitudes, the values towards life which we feel to be important. We believe it to be important for them to be honest, to be truthful, to be forthright, to be good, to be respectful, to be considerate, to be kind. And we are concerned that our schools and that our synagogues and that our homes should teach these principles. We enroll our young people in a religious school that they may be exposed to the moral tradition of Judaism. Our schools have adopted courses in civics and in the teachings of democratic living in order to expose our young people again to the mandates of responsible citizenship. And finally, we in our homes, take great pains to discipline our young people as to the way that they may go.

But a sometimes feet that we neglect the classroom and the textbook from which our young people learn the most. They learn by seeing rather than by hearing. Their favorite, and most effective classroom, is the home, and the most effective textbook is the lines of their parents adopt for their own lives. If a child sees his parents being strong in purpose, taking an upright position on moral issues, he will respect his parents and he will learn the meaningfulness of these moral positions. If, however, the sees his parents mouthing the conventional moralities but practicing the conventional immoralities, he will quickly discard the words as meaningless, as unrealistic, and he will adopt a much more practical and head headed and much less moral position when he; limself, must make such decisions. A child who sees his father in private take great pride in the integrity of his positions on the matters which shape our national destiny but

neighbors or of his friends will see no particular virtue in his own personal integrity. A young person who hears his mother constantly backbite and team for which the character of her neighbors and of har acquaintances, will herealf not be willing to trust herself in friendship and will set no great store of the largest yith which one man or one want there herealf to sign a false excuse for his trustney from his school will always to his look for the easy way to excuse his behavior, will always to an information of his own actions. If you would train up a child in the way that he should go, you must be first willing to go that way yourself.

Now the same classroom in which the child or the young adult learns his morals is the room in which he learns his manners. I have heard it said and repeated that this generation is less courteous, less respectful, less considerate of the elders than the previous.

I am not sure that this is so, but if it is, it is because our homes have become so unconcerned with privacy, with heard considerate, with respecting the disnity of each individual conter of the hear, that our children have no act, no guide from which to guide their own actions. A father who invades the privacy of his son's room and who violates the integrity of his son's diary cannot expect his son to consider his mouth sealed as to any matter which he hears being discussed in the household. A mother who is constantly frustrated and bothered by the presence in the home of some aged relative who voices freely, openly, her criticism of this person's conduct and

practices is certainly not preparing for herself a warm and beloved old age. A family where the voices are raised freely, loudly, and stridently, and where no one is particularly concerned about the language and the vocabulary which punctuates ensite speech, is not a family which can expect its young people to be concerned, when outside of the home, with the tone with which they express themselves and with the language which they choose to use towards their friends or towards their neighbors. In manners as in morals, the example must be lived in the home before it can be expected of our young people outside the home.

Many of sees homes have expected that the schools and the synagogues werth take up the slack in moral education which they, somehow, feel they cannot assume, and certainly the temples and the schools are concerned with the moral edification of our young But here again, unless the parents are partners in the work of the temple or in the work of the school and are concerned with the values which the school is attempting to teach, there can be no hope that the child will hold his lessons dearly. A parent who comes to the synagogue only to drop his child off to go to school cannot expect that the lessons learned in the classroom will make a lasting inspiration. A parent who never attends the preachings and the teachings of the pulpit cannot expect his child, after all, to attend to or to pay attention to or to value highly the lessons and the teachings which taught in the classrooms or from the pulpit. These institutions can be partners with the home in the development of the child, but they cannot do it alone. They cannot make up for any lack White the such that the

REVEREN

Now, I know that this represents a heavy burden of responsibility for the parents. I know that our young people demand a high standard of us. After all, in a sense I am a half father to the thirteen hundred young the interpretation of the religious school, and I know the high values and the standards with which they expect the teachers and the rabbis and the administrators to hid. But I also know this -- as we do not expect perfection of your young people, so our young people really do not expect perfection of us. What they react to is really more the texture which they sense in their home or in the school or in the synagogue -- the total configuration which is given and presented to them there rather than to any single thread of indifference or of impatience or irritability. But we must be a first a standards, our standards and you the hem.

remain me here a word aside: many of our parents seem to be, in our day and age, overwhelmed by the magnitude of the tasks which are required of them. They live all day, every day, under the tensions of child-rearing. They seek above an else to do the finest job possible, but it seems to overwhelm them, to be beyond them, and so they turn to some textbook, to some of the literature of our modern educators or psychiatrists. Now, it is well to seek out whatever edification, whatever knowledge that modern science can bring to our attention. But I submit to you that it is wrong and that it is harmful to forget the individuality of our own young people and to think that they can be forced into the norms of some character development chart. I submit that it is wrong to abdicate our own

good common sense in the name of some overwhelming or overweening principle of child growth. In a sense our parents have immedilized themselves because they have been fixated on certain fads in child raising and in child education. And I submit that it would be well if each of us went back to his own good sense, began again to use his own reservoir of human understanding, used intelligently the insights of modern science, but did not become dominated and controlled by them.

responsibilities of percents can be illustrated also by a story from our Bible. It has to do with the enterior between Jacob and Esau. The young Jacob was a bright, well-born, well-preserved young man. He was a person of shrewdness and cumningness and he was the apple of his mother's eye. His mother saw to it that the young Jacob had everything that his heart desired. She saw to it that he was freed from every responsibility in the home, in the fields, or with the flocks, and he was given his head -- he had nothing but leisure. The young Jacob soon became spoiled and as he was spoiled, he became increasingly selfish and self-seeking, and he became the young man who was not above taking by deceit from his brother the birthright which was not rightfully his, and taking by deceit from his father the blessing which was not rightfully his.

STATE DUT PUGGS Prospection we as parent, I believe, and as shapeter, the to overindulge and the spoil our young people. We tend to relieve them of all the chores and all the responsibilities in the three. After all, we can now afford the professional sitters and the maids and the cooks and the yeard men whose charge were more done by the various siblings in the family. But it is,

unfortunately, true that the less the child feels responsible for the home, the less close he feels to the home. And that the more a child feels necessary to home, the more he feels a partner in the ongoing growth and the wellbeing of the home, the closer he will feel to his parents and the closer kinship he will feel to the standards which the home tries to teach.

me, tends to keep them as children long beyond their rightful years as children. Many parents today have told me -- but I want my child to have the many opportunities, the many recreations which I lacked. Many a father who worked every day after school and on the weekends, and many a mother who had her first party dress at sixteen, it seems to me, is somewhat PARAMOUN APOUT APUANTAGES overly apported with the recreational aspects of her child life.

There are two dangers here. The first danger is that they will

Activities For Whill woll and provide force the young people into recreational provide beyond their years. A

mother who become overly concerned at eleven or twelve with partying her

daughter, will destroy some of the freshness with which her daughter should

enjoy her years when she is sweet sixteen. A father who gives his child

a car long before even the law permits it, will find that the thrill, beyond

that of ownership of the car, is racing it. And he may find that his child

is engaged in pastines of which he would not approve.

But secondly, just as Rebecca indulged Jacob and made him into a selfish young man, so often our overindulgence of our young people turns them into selfish young people and into self centered adults. The difference between childhood and maturity is, it seems to me, the difference between one's concern with one's immediate amusement and one's concern with one's long range accomplishments. Many young people I hear complained

about class. Many of our young people are toying with life. They are playing at the responsibilities of living, and I submit that this is because they have been made to feel that sports, and cars, and dances, and one's enjoyments are in and of themselves, and it is only with a second thought that they are made to appreciate the importance of earning one's living and of planning for one's future and of serving one's community.

The Rabbis had a wonderful piece of advice for any preacher --

that

he should not be harsh or severe in his judgments of his people. I hope that nothing I have said makes you feel that I hold cheaply the success which parents have made in the raising of their young people. Quite to the contrary, you cannot live in our school, you cannot administer it and work with its young people without bensing the anazing success, the amazing ability of these parents to bring out the best and the finest which is in their young people. Our Rabbis said: "

-- that a son is as the knee of his father and they asked, why of all the organs of the body, was a son compared to the knee of his father and the answer was that it is the knee only which can raise or lower the body.

Well, your children have inestimably raised you in the estimation of myself and of all of their teachers. You are doing a fine job, and what I gay I say only because sometimes by bringing these matters of moral understanding to light we can see the more clearly the way that we must go.

estimate the importance of the parents. We sometimes put the whole onus of responsibility for the weaknesses of their children upon their shoulders.

We often say there are no problem children -- only problem parents. But I would submit to you that this is not so. There are problem children, and there are weak children, and there are children who do not follow the moral

example of their parents. It is not true that the apple does not fall FAR always electron the tree. We are all aware of families in which there may be several sons -- one a minister, one a professor, and one a complete misfit in life. We are all aware of the Biblical stories which tell how as such sages of our people as Eli and/Samuel, men renowned for their wisdom and for their judgment and for their understanding -- each of them had sons who followed not their ways, who inclined after their baser impulses and were held in contempt by the people. Even the supposed wisest of all men, Solomon, was not able to keep peace always in his palace and lived to see his sons rebel against him.

We can teach our children by moral example, but we cannot assure that they will have the moral fiver to abide by our example. Idfe for our young people is a series of moral tests. We can show them the way that they should go that way they must go alone. The young Jagob whom we saw deceiving his father and his brother met this test in a very graphic and symbolic way. When he needed to return to his encestral home and to beg forgiveness of his parents, the Brale says that he spent a long night weestling with himself, wrestling with his early weakness, wrestling with his baser instincts, wrestling with his temptations not to go back, not to submit himself to the disgrace of asking forgiveness. They picture this in terms of Jacob wrestling with an angel of God, wrestling with an angel of God and the angel of God could not overcome him. And so our young people must wrestle with themselves and on their beds at night with the moral decisions that face them. We can show them the way. We can live a life which will be a guide to them but they alone, in themselves, must find the moral atrength to make the right decision. And certainly

spend the hours of preparation in the writing of a theme or whether they will piece the theme together in sections culled from the workdof their friends. It is they who must decide whether they will follow the lead of those who challenge them to deeds of foolhardy bravery or whether they will be cautious and abide by the strictures and restrictions of their parents. It is they who must decide whether they have the individuality and the strength to believe their own beliefs, to think their own thoughts, to go their own way, to set their own standards, or whether they will allow some group of their peers, some group of their friends, to set and determine their standards and their conduct for them. We cannot make these decisions for them. We can only hope that they will appreciate the rightness of the way we live and we only say: the obligation is yours. Be strong enough to accept it.

and remain; our young people suffer, as do the parents, from the overabundance and the overprosperity of our age. As the parents sometimes tend to overindulge the young people, so I firmly believe our young people tend to overindulge themselves. They want secure freedom. They want all the privileges of childhood and none of the responsibilities of adulthood. They want to be allowed to live in a world of dances, of parties, and of sports, and of games, long after they should have come into the estate of the men who are concerned with colleges and with careers and with standards and with achievements. They pamper themselves much too long, it seems to me often today, in their childhood and are inwilling to mature, unwilling to leave this state behind.

A Bar Mitzvah, according to our tradition, came at the age of



thirteen. Confirmation in our practice takes place at fourteen, or early in the fifteenth year. These are the symbolic acts by which a young person graduates into his responsibility, and when our young people achieve this estate, when they achieve these services, certainly they should be willing, they should desire to take on also the planning of tomorrow. The child thinks of tonight's television. The young adult thinks of tomorrow's lessons. The child thinks of the party which will feature the weekend. The young adult sees the weekend as an opportunity to be of service in his community or to spend a few hours with the books planning his life. The child is concerned only with doing in a slipshod way the assignment of tomorrow. The young adult is concerned with what the essignment of tomorrow means in his total development. He is concerned with understanding its full complexity and its full meaning and he goes far beyond the few questions which are asked of him.

The years of adolescence are not easy years, but they are made he had a least if we seek always to pumper ourselves, if we seek always to pumper ourselves, if we forget our planning for our immediate enjoyments.

Now, as we have seen, it is not easy to be an adequate parent. It is certainly not easy to be an adequate young person. But neither is it impossible to be either of these. Where there is the will, where there is love, where there is a sense of purpose, where there is a consciousness of one's own moral responsibility, then it seems to me nothing is beyond our achievement. Our young people, like their parents, as we see them pass through our school, give us cause for great hope in the tomorrow. Their parents have brought out much that is fine and noble in them and they are working to become capable adult men and women. Certainly as you work with

a bright tomorrow -- the tomorrow which will be filled for these young people with the tensions of their own child-raising, the tomorrow which will be filled by their accomplishments and be filled by the peace of mind which they will have brought to their parents.



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of all the people you know, the ones you probably know best are the members of your family. And of all the people to whom you owe a debt of gratitude, the ones to whom you owe the greatest debt are your parents, for they gave you the most precious possession you have -- your life.

No living being spends as many years under the care of parents as we humans do. In no species does it take as long for the child to grow up and assume his place in the adult world as in our own.

The enormous length of time a child spends under the guidance and protection of his parents brings about great rewards -- a sense of mutual responsibility, an awareness of love, a careful preparation for the future, and the experience of sharing intimately in the lives of other human beings. It can also bring about great tensions -- for it is often difficult for the child to understand the world of the perent, just as it is frequently difficult for the parent to enter completely into the world of the child.

Newspaper headlines are filled with the results of these tensions -teenage gangs, delinquency, drug addiction. It is not always an easy
matter for a parent to understand and fulfill his responsibilities toward
the child; nor is it always clear to a child how he ought to behave toward
his parent.

The Jewish teenager living in the twentieth century may often wonder whether or not his tradition has anything to say about the relationship of parents to children and children to parents, and whether or not any of the teachings of the tradition may still be applicable to the often bewildering complexities of present-day family life.

There is a further aspect to this situation which is particularly vexing to many people today. The discoveries of modern medicine have helped lengthen human life, and the Jewish reenager who grows up and

marries and begins a family life of his own may often find himself in an all too common contemporary predicament: How should an adult son or daughter behave toward aged parents? How should grandchildren behave toward grandparents? Is there anything in the teachings of the tradition that can point the way toward solving some of the many dilemmas of twentieth century family life?

It is the purpose of this brochure to show you that the tradition has a great deal to say about this very vital aspect of human life.

Our teachers will be the Rabbis of the Talmud.

Obligations of Parents to Children

You hear much these days about the responsibility of children to parents. Your parents are probably always telling you that it is your obligation and responsibility to respect them, to take care of your youngar brothers and sisters, to go on errands for the family. You probably become weary at times of hearing, over and over again, that you have a "responsibility" and an "obligation" to your parents. You might often wonder what sort of responsibility and obligation your parents have to you.

The Rabbis were very clear on this point. Parents are obligated to see to it that their children receive an education:

מִצְרָה לְלַמִּד אָת בֶּן בְּנוֹ, שֵׁנְאֲמֵר "וְהוֹדְדְתָה לְבָנִית וְלֹבְנֵי בַנִיתְ". (ש"ע, יו"ד, סי' רפ"ה)

. It is a commandment to teach a son, for it is said: "And you shall make it known to your children and to your children's children."

(Shulchan Aruch, Yorch Deah)

This obligation rests not only upon the father but upon the mother as well:

מביה ומבלה לפדנו שנם חוש משרים לחונות בנים שנמפרי "שמע בני מופר

We have learned by tradition that the Mother is also responsible for the education of her children, as it is said: "Hearken my son to the ethics of your father and do not forsake the Torah of your mother."

(Otzer Dinin Vminhagim I)

Parents are not only responsible to see to it that their children receive a good education; they must also see to it that they receive the kind of education that will equip them to take a productive place in society:

רבי יהדדה אומר: בַּל שָׁאִינוֹ קְלַמֵּד אָח בְנוֹ אוּמְנוּת בְּאַלוּ מְלַמְדוֹ לִיסְטוּת. (קדושין, כט:א)

Rabbi Judah says: "Anyone who does not teach his son a craft may be regarded as if he is teaching him to steal."

(Kiddushin, 29a)

But even this was not regarded by the Rabbis as being a sufficient fulfillment of parental responsibility. Seeing to it that the child receives a good academic and professional training is hardly enough.

The parent must also see to it that the child receives moral guidance as well:

יְזָהֵר הַאָב לְהַרְחִיק אָח בְנוֹ מְשָׁקֵר. (סוכה, מויב)

The father should be careful to draw his son away from falsehood.

(Succah, 46b)

But this must not be done cruelly:

של הְשָּב לְיַמֵר אָח בְנוֹ כְדֵי לְהִיפִיב דַרְפוֹ... אַבְּל בְּדְרָהְ נוֹעֵם וְלֹא בְּאַכְזְרִיוּת,

(אוצר דינים ומנהגים, 1: על פי מ"ק י"ז)

It is the father's duty to rebuke his son in order to improve his

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smite his older son.

(Otsar Dinim Uminhagim, I)

Parents are also responsible to see to it that their children are adequately prepared to take what is probably the single most important step in life:

הָאָב חַנִיב לְהַשִּׁיא אָת בְּנִיו וּבְנוֹתְיו... וּלְהַלְבִּישׁ אָח בִּתּוֹ לְפִי רְבּוֹדְהּ וַלַחֵת לָה נְדגנְיָא. (ש"ע, אה"ע, סי' ע"א)

The Father is responsible to merry off his sons and his daughters, and to clothe his daughter as befits her, and to provide her with a dowry.

(Shulchen Aruch, Orach Chayim)

It should be pointed out that though some of these sources are taken from medieval Rabbinic literature, they are all based upon the teachings of the Rabbis of the Talmud. This is not altogether the case with the next statement. During the period of the Talmud, education was generally geared toward the male child. There were a number of women who were astonishingly well educated -- but this was rare. As was the case with the entire world, from ancient to relatively recent times, formal education was oriented toward the male children. In this connection, a statement that reflects a point of view that is later than that of the Rabbinic Period is of considerable interest:

וְננוּךְ הַנְּעָרוֹת נִפְסָר לְהָאם וּלְחַבֵּהְ בְּרֶרָתְ הַיְשֶׁרָה... לַאַרוֹג וְלְחְפּוֹר וּלְבַשְׁל.
בַּט תְלַמִּד אוֹתְן מַדַּת בְּנִיעוּת וְעִנְיְנֵי אֱמוּנָה הַנוֹבְעִים לַנְעָרוֹת.
(אוצר דינים ומנהגים, 139)

The education of young girls is entrusted to the mother and she must educate them in the proper manner... to sew, and to cook. Also she shall teach them the quality of modesty and those traditional practices applicable to young girls..

You might keep this statement carefully in mind, because we will be returning to it at the end of this brochure.

It ought to be clear enough by now that as far as the Rabbis were concerned a parent is responsible for the physical, spiritual, intellectual, and economic.welfare of his children -- for every aspect of their lives. No parent has a right to deny this responsibility.

Obligations of Children to Parents

Now let us see how the Rabbis spelled out the obligations of the child to the parent. How we fulfill these obligations is clearly dependent upon the attitude a child has toward his parents. Assuming the attitude is a positive one, it can take two forms: a sense of awe bordering on fear, and a feeling of respect. Here is how the Rabbis distinguished between the two:

שנר רבותינו: איזהו מודא ואיזהו בבוד? מודא – לא עומד במקומו, ולא
יונב במקומו, ולא סותר את דבריו, ולא מכריעו; בבוד – מאכיל ומשקה,
מלביש ומכסה, מכנים ומוציא.

(קדושין לאוב)

Our Rabbis taught: What is "fear" and what is "honor"?

"Fear" means that he (the son) must neither stand in

his (the father's) place nor sit in his place, nor contradict

his words, nor tip the scales against him (that is, if his

father is in a dispute with another person, his son must not

side with his opponent). "Honor" means that he must give

him food and drink, clothe and cover him, lead him in and out.

(Kiddushin, 31b)

Read the passage again. Can you determine what the difference is between fear and honor (or respect)? What point is this passage trying to make?

Here is another Rabbinic passage about honor and respect:

בְּדְיֵּל בָּבְּיִּדְ אָב וָאָם שְּהָשֶּׁרִיפוֹ הַקְּדְוֹשׁ בְּרְיּהָ הוּא יוֹתֵר מְּכְבּוֹרוֹ,

עָבְּרְבּוֹדְ הִקְבִ"ה נָאָמֵר "כַבְּדְ אָח ה' מָהוֹנְבְ (משלי 1:9), אם לְרְ אַמָּה חִיִּיב, וְאָס

לֵינוֹ, מַתְּה פְּטִיּרוּ, מִּבְּל בִּכְבוֹד אָב וָאָם נָאָמֵר "כַבְּד אָח אָכְרָ", וַאִּפִילוּ

The honor of father and mother is so great that God prizes it more than His own honor, for regarding honor of God it is said:
"Honor the Lord from your wealth"-if you have wealth you are obliged to do so, and if not you are exempt; but regarding homor of father and mother it is said: "Honor your father and your mother" - even if you are a beggar.

(Yerushalmi, Feeh. 1)

"Honor" was not merely an abstract word for the Rabbia. It was apelled out by them very carefully in terms of the everyday lives and needs of human beings. Note this passage:

"כַבֵּד אָת אָבִיך וְאָת אָסָרְ"... "לא חַרְצַח" - בָה עְנְיָן זָה אָצְל זָה? אַלָא לְלַפִּרְכָ: אָט יָט לוֹ לָאַדָס מְזוֹנוֹה בְּחוֹב בִיחוֹ אִינוֹ מְהַנָּה אָת אַבִיוֹ וְאָת אָמוֹ אַפִּילוּ בַּיִּלְדוּתְם וָאִיזְ צָרִיהָ לוֹפַר בְּזִקְנוּתְם - כִאלוּ הוּא רוֹצֵה כָל יְמִיוֹ לְפְנֵי הַמְקוֹם. לִכֹרָ נָאָמַר "בַּבִד"... וִ"לֹא תַרְצַח".

(תנא דבי אליהו, כו)

"Monor thy father and thy mother"... "Thou shalt not murder." Why are these two situations placed so close to one another? (In the Bible, the second verse follows immediately after the first: see Exedus, 20:12, 13.) To teach you: If a man has food in his house and does not share it with his father and mother, even when they re-

young and most certainly swhen they are old, then he is considered as if he were as habitual surderer. Therefore, the verses "Honor..." and "Thou shalt not commit surder" stend next to one smother.

(Tona dibei Eliyahu, 26)

But the Rabbis went further than this. It was not the act alone that reflected a sense of respect toward parents -- it was also how the act was performed. Consider this very important statement:

נים מַאַכִיל אָת אָבִיו פְּטּגּטוֹת יְיוֹרֶט בִיהָנֹס יְנִשׁ מַּטְחִינוֹ בָּרָחִיִּס יְיוֹרֶט בִּיְּהְנֹס יְנִשׁ מַטְחִינוֹ בָּרָחִיִּס יְיוֹרֶט בִיּהְנֹס יְנִשׁ בַּאָּחָד שָׁהְיָה מַאֲכִיל לָאָבִיוֹ מִיְנְבֹלִיִם סְטִּיִּסְים. פַּעָט אַתְח אָמֵר לוֹ אָבִיוּ "בְּגִי, הַלֶּלְה מָנִיוֹ לְרָ?" אָמֵר לוֹ: "זְּקוֹ, זְקוֹ אֶבֹל הְּשְׁתֹּץ, שֶׁהַכְּלְבִיס אוֹכְלְבִיס וֹשׁוֹתְקִיטוֹ" נְמָבֵא מַאְכִיל אַת אָבִיוּ מְּטִּנֹחוֹ בְּרָתִייִם וְיוֹרֶשׁ בֵּן צְּדְץ? פַּעְּטָה בְּאָתְד שָׁהָיָה טוֹתֵן וְיוֹרְט גִינִה מְבִּיה וֹיוֹנְשׁ בֵּן צְדְץ? פַּעְּטָה בְּאָתְד שָׁהָיָה טוֹתֵן בְּרָחִייִם וְיוֹרֶשׁ בֵּן צְדְץ? פַּעְּטָה בְּאָתִד שָׁהָיָה טוֹתֵן בְּרָתִייִם וְיוֹרֶשׁ בֵּן צְדְץ? פַּעְּטָה בְּאָתִד שְׁהָיָה טוֹתֵן בְּרָתִייִם וְיוֹנְשׁ בַּן צְדְץ? פַּעְּשָׁה בְּאָתִד שְׁהָיָה טוֹתֵן בְּרָתִייִם (לְצְבּוֹרָת הַמְלְהָ): אִם יִבִּי לִירָי בְּלְבוֹי אֶלְהָי עְבְּוֹרָת הַמְלְהָ): אִם יִבִּי לִירָי בְּיְיוֹן אֶתְבְּיָה שִׁלְּה אָבָה, וְאָם לִידִי מַלְקוֹת אִלְּקָה אֵנִי וְלֹא אַתָּה." נִמְצִא מַטְּחִיבּוֹ בְּרָחִייִם וְלֹא אַתָּה יְנִי בְּלְבְּחִ אִלְּקָה אֵנִי וְלֹא אַתָּה." נִמְדֵא מַטְחִיבּוֹ בְּרָחִיים וְלֹא אַבָּה, וְבָּבֵע וְשִׁתְּן הְיִבְּי לְלְבְּלְוֹת אִלְּקָה אֵנִי וְלֹא אַתָּה יְנִים בְּיִים בְּלְפְוֹת אִלְּקָה אֵנִי וְלֹא אַתָּה יְנִים בְּלְבְּתִוֹים בְּרָּתְיִם בְּיִים בְּיִבְּיִם בְּיִבְּיוֹם בְּיִבְיִים בְּלְבְּיוֹם אִלְּפְה אֵנִי וְלֹא אַתָּה." נִמְבְא מְטְחִיבוֹן בְּדְיִים.

(ירוטלמי, פאח, ה"א)

A man may food his father on fattened chickens and inherit
hell (as his reward), and enother may put his father that a
in a mill and inherit Paradise. How is it possible that a
man might feed his father fattened chickens and inherit Hell?

It once happened that a man used to feed his father fattened
chickens. Once his father said to him: "My son, where did
you gat these?" He answered: "Old man, old man, eat and be

silent, just as dogs eat and are silent." In such an instance, he feeds his father on fattened chickens, but he inherits Hell. How is it possible that a man might put his father to work in a mill and inherit Paradise? It once happened that a man was working in his mill. The king decreed millers should be brought to work for him (for the king). He said (to his father):

"Father, go and work in the mill in my place (and I will go to work for the king). For it may be (that the workers will be) ill-treated; in which case let me be ill-treated in place of you. And it may be (that the workers will be) beacen; in which case let me be beaten instead of you." In such an instance, he puts his father to work in a mill, but he inherits Paradise.

(Yerushalmi, Peah, 1)

Are there any limits to the respect one ought to show one's parents?

Here is an interesting story by way of ensuer to that question.

Note that the hero of the story is a non-Jew:

וְּהְיִינִים רָבּוֹא שְׁכָר, וְהִיָה פַפְּתִח שְׁנַח תַחַת מְרַאֲשׁוֹחִין שֶׁל אָבִין וְלֹא צְּעֲרוֹ. וְנָבָא הָרָא הָרָא בְּעָרוֹ. וְנָבָא בָּן נְּחִנְיָה שְׁנַח תַחַת מְרָאֲשׁוֹחִין שֶׁל אָבִין וְלֹא צִעְרוֹ. וְנָבָא בָּן נְּחַנְיָה שְׁמוֹ פְרָאֲשׁוֹחִין שֶׁל אָבִין וְלֹא צִעְרוֹ. וְנָבָא בָּן נְּחַנְיָה שְׁמוֹ מְבָאשׁוֹחִין שֶׁל אָבִין וְלֹא צִעְרוֹ.

They asked Rabbi Ila: "How far should one carry the principle of honoring one's parents?" He replied: "Go and see what one Centile did in Ashkelon, whose name was Dima son of Netima. One time the mages requested merchandism from him which was worth 60,000 gold dinarim,

but since the key (to the merchandise) was resting under the head of his father who was asleep, he would not trouble him.:

(Kiddushin, 31a)

Here is how another Rabbi responded to that question:

שָׁאֵלהּ אָת ר׳ אָלִיעָזֶר: עַר הֵיכָן פִבּוּד אָב נְאָם? אָפַר לָהָם: כְּדֵי שִׁיִּטוֹל מִרְנָּסִי שֶׁל דִינוֹרִים וְיִזְרְשְׁנוּ לַיָּם בְּפָנִיוֹ וְאִינוֹ פַּכְלִיפוֹ. (קדוסין, לב:א)

They asked Rabbi Eleazar: "How far does the principle of honor of father and mother extend?" He replied: "Even if the father should take a purse of money and throw it into the sea in his son's presence, the son should still not reproach him."

(Kiddushin, 32a)

The Emblis were fond of telling stories which exemplified ideal behavior toward parents:

אָפּוֹ 'מָל ר' פַרְפּוֹן יָרְדָה יְטֵיֵל לְתוֹך חֲבֶּרָה בְשַׁבְּת וְנִפְּפָסְ חַרְּסְדְיוּם בּּבּׁיִלְּהְ מְלְּהִי חֲלָה וְנִבְיִם בְּשַׁבְת וְנִפְנְיוּם שְּׁבְּי יְבְיוֹ חַחַת פַּרְסוֹמִיהְ וְהְיִתְר מְהַלְכָּת עֲלֵיהְן עֵלֵיהְן עֵבְי שְׁהְּנִי יְבְיוֹ חַחַת פַּרְסוֹמִיהְ וְהְיִתְר מְהַלְּהְ עְלֵיהְן עֵבְי יְבְיוֹ חַחַת פַּרְסוֹמִיהְ וְהְיִתְר מְהַלְּהְ עְלֵּהְ בִּי בְּבוֹד יוֹתֵר מְדֵאי." אָמְרוּ לָה: "מָה עְשָׂה לָהְ?" פַּעְר הֹי הָבִיי, שְׁהִרוּ לָה: "אַפִּיבוּ יוֹתֵר מְדֵאי." אָמְרוּ לָה: "מָה עְשָׂה לָהְ?" מִבְּיִה הַמוֹרָה הַא הָּבִיעַ."

(ירושלמי, פאה, פ"א)

Rabbi Tarfon's mother once walked in the courtyard on the Sabbath and her sandal broke. Rabbi Tarfon went and placed his two hands under her feet so that she walked on them until she reached her bed. One time he became ill, and the sages went in to visit him. She said to them:

"Pray for Rabbi Tarfon, my son, for he gives me an excessive amount of honor." They said to her: "What did he do to you?" She told them of the event. They said to her: "Had he done so even a thousand times, he still would not have achieved helf of the honor which the Torah require."

Conflicts in the Home

Family conflicts are inevitable. Often they seem impossible to solve. Suppose, for example, you received conflicting requests from your parents. Whom would you obey? Here is how some of the Rabbis responded to this problem:

לְּכֵל מְקוֹם הּגּא (הַחוֹרָה) מַקְדִים כְבוֹד אָב לָאָם וּכְּפְקוֹם אָחֶד הּוּא אוֹמֵר: "אִיםׁ (בראִית רבה, א)

(בראית רבה, אימוֹ וְאָבִיוֹ תִירָאוּ", מַגִיד שִקְנִיהָם שְּקוּלִין.

Throughout the Torah, (wherever father and mother are mentioned together) the father is mentioned first, except in one place where it is stated: "A man shall fear his mother and father." This teaches us that both are equally deserving of the same respect.

(Bereshit Rabbah, 1)

Insofar as respect is concerned, then, one must respect both parents equally. But in the case of a conflict --

אָבָא אוֹמָר הַשְּּקִינִי מֵיִם וְאָבָא אוֹמָרֶת תַּשְּּקִינִי מֵיִם, אִיזָה מִהֶם קּוֹדֵם? הַנַח בְבוֹד אָמֶרְ וַעֲשֵׂה כְבוֹד אָבִירְ, שָאַתַה וְאִמֶּרְ חַיַיביִם בְּבְבוֹד אָבִיך. (קדושין, לא:א)

Father says: "Give me water," and mother says: "Give me water."

Which one of them must be obeyed first? Put aside the honor of your

mother and fulfill the honor of your father, because both you and your

mother are obligated to honor your father.

(Kiddushin, 318)

What is your reaction to this teaching? Do you agree with .it?

How do you resolve similar conflicts in your family?

Interestingly snough, when a situation existed that posed a danger to life, another sort of hierarchy was put into practice:

הְיָה הוּא וְאַבִיוּ וָרַבוֹ בַּשְּבִי, הוּא קוֹהֶם לְרַבּוֹ, וְרַבּוֹ קוֹדֶם לְאַבִיוּ אֲאוֹ קוֹדֶמָת לְבִּנְּלֶם. He and his father and his teacher were held captive (by non-Jews), he precedes his teacher (in being ransomed), his teacher precedes his father, and his mother precedes them all.

(Horoyoth, 13a)

In a conflict of loyalties between a father and a teacher, the Rabbis taught:

יוט דְכָה הַבֵּז לְפָנֵי הַרַב, קוֹהֵם אֶת הַאָב בְּכֶל מְקוֹם, מִפְנֵי שָׁהוּא וְאָבִיוּ ווֹיָיבִים בִּכְבוֹד רַבּוֹ.

If the son gained much wisdom (while he sat) before his teacher, his teacher comes always before his father, since both he and his father are bound to honor the teacher.

(Mishna Krituth, 6:9)

Now consider this conflict between a mother and a son:

מְּמֹוֹ טֶל רֹ׳ יִשְּׁמָצְאל בָּאָה וְסָבְּלָה עְלָוֵי לְרבוֹתֵנוּ, אַמְרָה לָהָם: "בַּעָרגּ (20 בְּיִקְמָצְאל בְּנִי, שָּׁאִינוֹ נוֹהָג בִי כָבוֹד" בְאוֹתָה שְׁעָה נִתְּכַרְכְמוּ פְנִיהָם שְׁל רֵבוֹתֵינּגּ, מְמְרוּ: "אָפְּשֶׁר אִיז רֹ׳ יִשְׁמָצִאל נוֹהָג כְבוֹד בַאֲבוֹתִיוֹ?" אָמְרוּ לָה: מָה עְשַׂה לָהָ? בְּמְרָה: כְּצְהוּא יוֹצֵא מָבֵית הַמִּדְרָשׁ אֲנִי מְבַקְשֶׁת לְרְחוֹץ רַגְלְיוֹ... וְאִינוֹ מַנִיחַ לִי" אָמְרוּ לוֹ: "הוֹאִיל וְהוּא רְצוֹנָה הוּא כְבוֹדָהּ"

(ירושלמי פאה, פ"א, ה"א)

The mother of Rabbi Yishmael came and angrily objected to the rabbis. She said to them: "Rebuke Yishmael my son, for he does not respect me!"

The Rabbis paled with embarrassment and said: "Does Rabbi Yishmael really not respect his parents?" "Just what did he do?" She said: "When he leaves the Beth-Hamidrash I request to wash his feet... and he does not allow me." They said to him (to Rabbi Yishmael): "Since such is her will, let her be honored in this way."

(Yerushalmi Peah, Ch. 1:1)

Just in case you think that this is a somewhat strange story, consider how you might apply it to the following very real situation:

An aging mother loves to serve lengthy meals to her grown son every time he visits her and does not allow him to help her with the dishes. The son is dismayed by the time and effort expended by his mother in preparing for him, and wonders whether he should make less frequent visits to her.

What do you think he ought to do?

(בראטית רבה, פד)

Car you think of incidents in your life when there has been a conflict between what your parents and your grandparents urge you to do? Whom are you more obligated to obey -- your parents or your grandparents?

Here is what the Rabbis teach:

ווייב אדם בכבוד אביו יותר מכנוד זפנו.

A man has a greater obligation to honor his father than his grandfather.

(Bereshit Rabah, 84)

Why do you think the Rabbis say that the parent should be obeyed rather than the grandparent when the two conflict?

Now we come to a very serious problem. The biblical commandment "Honor thy father and thy mother" is a brief statement which is not further elaborated. The commandment "Thou shalt fear the Lord thy God" is also brief. The teenager who associates with Jewish youth movements, who attends Jewish summer camps, observes Jewish law, and upholds Jewish values often lives in a home where his parents do not share his interest in Judaism. It will sometimes occur that he is asked by his parents to perform a task which is in conflict with that which he believes God demands of him.

"Honor thy father and thy mother" and "Thou shalt fear the Lord thy God" may sometimes be in direct conflict. Note how the Rabbia

reacted to such a situation:

יְכוֹל יָהָא כָּבוּד אָב נָאָם דוֹתָה שַבְּח? הַלְּמוּד לוֹמֵר "אִיטׁ אמו וְאַבִיוֹ חִירָאוּ וְאָת שַבְּתוֹתֵי הַשְּׁמֹרְהַ" כְּלְכָם חַיְיבִים בְּכְבוֹרִי.

Should a person maintain that the honor of father and mother suspends the Sabbath? The Bible says (in the same verse): You shall fear your father and mother and observe my Sabbath - all of you are obligated with respect to my honor.

(Yebamoth, 5b)

The following statements pertain to similar conflicts of loyalty:

מליקור בן מחנא אומר: אבא אומר: "הַקּשני פיס," ומצנה לעשות פנים אני כבוד אבא ועישה את המצנה, שאני ואבא חייבים במצנה. פיסי בן יהודה אומרן אם אפשר לבסוח על ידי אחרים - תעשה על היי שחרים וילך הוא בכבוד אביו.

Eleazar ben Matya says: "If Father says: "Get me a drink of water," and at the same time (I have) another mitzvah to perform, I neglect the honor of my father and perform the mitzvah, for I and my father are obligated to perform the mitzvah." Isi ben Judah says: "If others are available to perform the mitzvah, then they should do so, so that he should obey his father's command."

(Kiddushin, 32a)

בָּב שָׁאָפַר לָבְ אָבִיבְ חַיָיב אַתָּה לְטְמוֹעֵן אֲבָל אִם אָמַר לְבְּי בוֹב וְנִשְׁחַתְּנְה בֹּאַ לַצְבוֹדָה זְרָה" לֹא תִשְׁמַע לוֹ שֶׁלֹא תִּכְפֹר.

(ילקום, מסלי, חחק"ס)

Everything which your father says to you, you are obliged to obey.
But if he says to you: "Let us bow down to idols," you must not obey him,

last you become an apostate.

(Yalkut, Highles)

Here is another statement;

שָׁנִינה: "אִים אְמוֹ וְאָבִיו חִירָאוּ" - יַכל אֲמֵר לוֹ אֲבִיו: "הְּשֵּמֵא", אוֹ אָמַר לוֹ: "אַל תַּחְזֹר, "יָבוֹל יִשְׁמֵע לוֹ; חַלְמגד לוֹמֵר: "אִיש אְמוֹ וְאָבִיוּ תִירָאוּ וְאֶת שַּבְתוֹתִי תִשְׁמרוּ אֲנִי ה' אֵלהִיכִם" - כְּלְהָם חַיְיבִים בִּכְבוֹדִי.

(יבמות, ו:א)

We learned: "Thou shalt fear thy father and mother." It is possible that his father shall say to him: "Defile yourself," or, "Do not repent." Should be obey him? Scripture, therefore, states: "Thou shalt fear thy father and mother and observe my commandments, I am the Lord thy God." Each and every one of you stands under the obligation to honor me.

(Yebamoth, 6a)

Note carefully, however, how one is supposed to react to a parent in such a conflict situation:

דְחַנְיָא. הַרֵי שָּהְיָה אָבִיו עוָבּר עַל דְבְרֵי חוֹרָה, לֹא יֹאפַר לוֹ: "אַבָּא, עַבְרָבְּ עַל דִבְרִי חוֹרָה", אָלָא אוֹמֵר לוֹ: "אַבָּא, כַּהְ בְּחוּב בַּתּוֹרָה?" פוֹף סוֹף, הַיִּינוּ הַהְן אָלָא אוֹמֶר לוֹ: "מִקְרָא כְחוּב בַּתּוֹרָה כַּהְ הוֹא".

We have learned: If one's father transgresses a precept of the

Torah he should not say to him: "Father, you have transgressed a precept

of the Torah." He should rather say: "Father, does this correspond to

what it says in the Torah?" Are not these two statements the same? Rather

he should say: "The verse from the Torah states such and such."

(Sanbeirin, 81a)

The Ethics of Child-Parent Relations - 15 -

Now consider the following problems very carefully. Now would you resolve them in the light of what you have learned about the Rabbinic attitudes toward child-parent relations?

- 1. Your father does not like some of your friends. He questions their moral character and urges you to break with them.
- 2. Your high school senior prom is scheduled to take place on Friday night. Your father suggests that you go on the grounds that it is an important experience in the life of a tesnager and that there are many other Sabbaths that you can observe, whereas the dance will occur only onus.
- 3. Your mother is cleaning the house and wishes you to help her. But your friend is seriously ill and you were planning to visit her.
- 4. A daughter pasite a bottege powertion. The father hesitates, feeling that girls do not beed extensive while girls, and that his daughter should look for a job and grentually makey from any of the rabbinic statements mentioned in this brochur bely to resolve the conflict?
- old. You ask your parents for provission to obtain a driver's license. Your father feels very strongly that you are still too young to drive a car, despite what Pennsylvanialaw has to say on the matter. Your mother favors your considering the issue carefully and making up your own mind.
- 6. Your parents have planned a program of after-school activities for you which will confet of: plano lessons on Monday, dance lessons on Tuesday, and draing lessons on Wadnesday. They feel that these activities will enable you to become a "well bounded" teenager, that you will "fit b ter" into the teenage society. You have limited after-school time remaining once you are finished with your school homework, and want to

contine with your Hebrew studies after school

From the desk of-

RABBI DANIEL JEREMY SILVER

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