

בראתי יצר הרע ובראתי לו
תורה תבלין
A Torah Tavlin Publication
34 Mariner Way Monsey, NY 10952

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Dvar Halachah from Rav Boruch Hirschfeld Shlit"u
HONORING A TALMID CHACHAM
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The *posuk* tells us that the *Aron Hakodesh* required a golden crown all around it. Rashi explains that this is symbolic of the crown and glory of *Torah*, as well as *Talmidei Chachomim*.

Honoring a Talmid Chacham

A *Talmid Chacham* is defined as one whose *Torah* knowledge is recognizably greater than that of other people (1). For such a person, there is a *mitzvah* and obligation to honor him (2), regardless of his age (3). One is required to:

- 1- Give him an honorable seat in *Beis Medrash* (4).
- 2- Call him to the *Torah* for the first *aliyah* when no *kohen* is present (5).
- 3- Serve him before others at a meal (6).
- 4- Speak respectfully to him at all times (7).
- 5- Allow him to enter a doorway first (8).
- 6- Allow him to stand on one's right side (9) while walking (or in middle where there are 3 or more).
- 7- Give him preference when distributing charity (10).
- 8- Participate in the funeral and *hesped* of a *Torah* scholar (11).

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הוא היה אומר....

R' Chaim Soloveitchik (Brisker) ZT"L would say:

"The true *Gaon* and genius in *Torah* is not the one who always offers good *Torah* explanations, but the one who never offers bad ones!"

R' Shmelke of Nikolsberg ZT"L would say:

"See the plot of the *Yetzer Hara*. In early days, when a Jew became old and his beard turned white, he would recount his deeds and repent his sins. When he got even older, he required a cane and that would prepare him for his soon-to-come Day of Judgement. But now, young men shave, wear eyeglasses and walk vainly with exquisite canes. Thus, they never come to think of their deeds or do a proper *teshuva*!"

R' Naftali Berditchever Shlit"a would say:

"When you were born, you cried and the world rejoiced. Live your life in such a manner that when you eventually die the world will cry and you will rejoice!"

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9- A *úéää* *ìòá* may honor whoever he wants with *bentching* (12). However, it is preferable to bestow this honor on a *Talmid Chacham* (13).

Standing up in respect of a Torah scholar

There is a *mitzva* to stand up for a *Talmid Chacham* who passes within 4 *amos* (approx. 6-8 feet) of someone (14). If this occurs many times in one day, with the same scholar, it is nevertheless preferable to stand up each time (15). One should get up even while davening, learning (16), or saying *Krias Shema* (17), and a *Talmid Chacham* walks by. **R' Yosef Sholom Elyashiv Shlit"n** holds that even when one is teaching, he must stand up.

If a person is sitting down while holding a *Sefer Torah*, i.e. after doing *hagbah*, he should not stand up for a *Talmid Chacham* (18). If one is in a *mikvah* and not dressed properly, he is not obligated to stand up for a *Torah* scholar (19). This leniency applies, as well, to a person who is *ò"ì* sitting *shivah*, or ill (à:àòù ã"âé à" î ø ÿééè)

There is a special *mitzvah* of "דָּאַף אֶת הַחֹמֶת" - "To Him you shall cleave," which includes being in the company of *Talmidei Chachomim*, learning from them and assisting them financially (20).

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