

## Rabbinic Authority – Avot 1:1

מֹשֶׁה קִבֵּל תּוֹרָה מִסִּינַי, וּמִסָּרָה לִיהוֹשֻׁעַ, וִיהוֹשֻׁעַ לְזִקְנִים, וְזִקְנִים  
לְנָבִיאִים, וְנָבִיאִים מִסָּרוּהָ לְאַנְשֵׁי כְּנֶסֶת הַגְּדוּלָּה. הֵם אָמְרוּ  
שְׁלֹשָׁה דְבָרִים, הָיוּ מְתוּנִים בַּדִּין, וְהֵעֲמִידוּ תַלְמִידִים הַרְבֵּה,  
וַעֲשׂוּ סִיג לַתּוֹרָה:

Moses received the Torah at Sinai and transmitted it to Joshua, Joshua to the elders, and the elders to the prophets, and the prophets to the Men of the Great Assembly. They said three things: Be patient in [the administration of] justice, raise many disciples and make a fence round the Torah.

# A discussion on Rabbinic Authority based on Avot 1:1

## Some Textual Questions to ask Chanichim:

Do you know who the “men of the great assembly” were?

Why does it say given to Yehosua, but it then leaves the word out?

## Some General Questions to ask Chanichim:

Do we prioritize Rabbinic law over law that is directly from the Torah law?

## Some Personal Questions to ask Chanichim:

Do you think Rabbinic Law is important in Judasim?

Do you find it easier or harder to connect to Rabbinic Law?

Is it easier to focus on the “how?” or the “why?” of halacha?

## A Related Story:

All success depends on habits of discipline and willpower. Halacha, Jewish law is the world’s greatest ongoing seminar in discipline and willpower. Try getting up for Shacharis every morning, every other challenge becomes easy. - Rabbi Sacks - Olami Summit 2017

## Other sources and quotes to bring into discussion:

### Vayikra 10:11:

וְלִהְיוֹת אֶת־בְּנֵי יִשְׂרָאֵל אֶת כָּל־הַחֻקִּים אֲשֶׁר דִּבֶּר יְהוָה אֲלֵיהֶם בְּיַד־מֹשֶׁה:

“and you must teach the Israelites all the laws which the LORD has imparted to them through Moses.”

### Devarim 4:29

וּבִקְשַׁתֶּם מִשָּׁם אֶת־יְהוָה אֱלֹהֵיךָ וּמְצֵאתָ כִּי תִדְרֹשֶׁנּוּ בְּכָל־לִבְבְּךָ וּבְכָל־נַפְשְׁךָ:

But if you search there for the LORD your God, you will find Him, if only you seek Him with all your heart and soul (Jews being able to understand what Hashem wants (It might not be simple))

**Rabbi Kelemen** (Lawrencekelmen.com - contemporary rabbi alive today)

Worked out the unbroken chain of transmission between his Rabbi and Moshe who received the Torah and he found less a chain of less than 140 rabbis

## Some Interactive Resources:

