

Olam Haba – Pirkei Avot 1:3, 4:21, 4:22

אַנְטִיגֶנוֹס אִישׁ סוֹכוֹ קָבַל מִשְׁמֵעוֹן הַצְּדִיק. הוּא הָיָה אוֹמֵר, אַל
תְּהִי כְעֹבְדִים הַמְשִׁמְשִׁין אֶת הָרַב עַל מְנַת לְקַבֵּל פְּרָס, אֲלֵא הוּוּ
כְעֹבְדִים הַמְשִׁמְשִׁין אֶת הָרַב וְשֵׁלָא עַל מְנַת לְקַבֵּל פְּרָס, וִיהִי
מוֹרָא שְׁמַיִם עָלֵיכֶם:

Antigonus a man of Socho received [the oral tradition] from Shimon the Righteous. He used to say: do not be like servants who serve the master in the expectation of receiving a reward, but be like servants who serve the master without the expectation of receiving a reward, and let the fear of Heaven be upon you.

A discussion on Olam Haba based on Avot 1:3

Some Textual Questions to ask Chanichim:

What do you think the text means when it says “be not like servants”?

Why do you think the text mentions the “Awe of Heaven”?

Some General Questions to ask Chanichim:

Are material possessions important if we will not take them with us?

Does focusing on heaven give us a better focus in life?

Some Personal Questions to ask Chanichim:

Is it useful to have a focus or goal in life?

Is it harder to work for something when you don't know exactly what it is or your exact path to that goal?

Other sources and quotes to bring into discussion:

Koheles: 3:1

“A season is set for everything, a time for every experience under heaven:” - With Rashi - **A season is set for everything.** Let not one who accumulates possessions out of vanity rejoice, for although he possesses them now, they will ultimately pass on to the righteous, only the time has not yet arrived, for everything has a set time

Isaiah 6

In the year that King Uzziah died, I beheld my Lord seated on a high and lofty throne; and the skirts of His robe filled the Temple. Seraphs stood in attendance on Him. Each of them had six wings: with two he covered his face, with two he covered his legs, and with two he would fly. And one would call to the other, “Holy, holy, holy! The LORD of Hosts! His presence fills all the earth!” The doorposts would shake at the sound of the one who called, and the House kept filling with smoke. I cried, “Woe is me; I am lost! For I am a man of unclean lips And I live among a people Of unclean lips; Yet my own eyes have beheld The King LORD of Hosts.” Then one of the seraphs flew over to me with a live coal, which he had taken from the altar with a pair of tongs. He touched it to my lips and declared, “Now that this has touched your lips, Your guilt shall depart And your sin be purged away.”

A Related Story:

Pesachim Daf 50a

Rav Yosef, son of Rabbi Yehoshua ben Levi was very ill. When he returned to good health, his father said to him: What did you see when you were about to die? He said to him: I saw an inverted world. Those above, i.e., those who are considered important in this world, were below, insignificant, while those below, i.e., those who are insignificant in this world, were above. He said to him: My son, you have seen a clear world. The world you have seen is the true world, as in that world people's standings befit them. Rabbi Yehoshua ben Levi asked: **And where are we, the Torah scholars, there?** Rav Yosef responded: **Just as we are regarded here, so are we regarded there.**

Rav Yosef added: **And I heard that they were saying in that world: Praiseworthy is the one who arrives here with his studies in hand.**

Some Interactive Resources:

Video - Does the Torah mention the afterlife? The answer will surprise you! - JTV - Youtube <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=17tBiVHYHTk>

Video - Does Judaism believe in heaven and hell? | Jewish Wisdom | J-TV – Youtube <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WgTufyfcwEU>

Video: The afterlife in Judaism – People of the Book <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OyhH7lovvBo>