



ELITE 8: MATCH 1 - VOTE FOR WHICH OF THESE TEXTS SHOULD MOVE ON TO THE FINAL 4:

<https://forms.office.com/r/F5nHFYsT5g>

Elite 8 Additional NEW Study Questions for both texts:

1. What do these two texts tell us about the importance of our individuality and manifesting God through our actions in our own particular ways?
2. Which do you find more important regarding Judaism and Torah: having/learning the experience yourself, or sharing/teaching the experience with others?

[Talmud] Pirkei Avot 6:6

Torah is greater than the priesthood and royalty. For one acquires royalty with thirty qualities, and the priesthood [is attained] with twenty-four qualities, while [in comparison,] Torah is acquired [by mastering] forty-eight things. These [48 things that one needs to master in order to acquire Torah] are:

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| 1) Study | 23) Having Trust and Faith in Teachers |
| 2) Careful (Attentive) Listening | 24) Acceptance of Suffering |
| 3) Ordered Speech | 25) Knowing One's Place |
| 4) Understanding of the Heart (Insight) | 26) Rejoicing in One's Portion |
| 5) Awe | 27) Setting a Limit to One's Words |
| 6) Reverence | 28) Claiming No Credit for Oneself |
| 7) Humility/Modesty | 29) [Being One] Who is Beloved |
| 8) Joy, Cheerfulness | 30) [Being One] Who Loves God |
| 9) Purity | 31) [Being One] Who Loves People |
| 10) Attending to Teachers | 32) [Being One] Who Loves Justice |
| 11) Close Association with Peers | 33) [Being One] Who Loves Reproof |
| 12) Engaging in Debate and Discussion with Disciples | 34) [Being One] Who Loves Equity |
| 13) Self Control, Composure | 35) Distancing Oneself from Glory |
| 14) [Knowledge of] Bible and Mishnah | 36) [Being One] Who Does Not Boast of One's Knowledge |
| 15) Moderation in Business | 37) [Being One] Who Does Not Enjoy Passing Judgments |
| 16) Moderation in Worldly Matters | 38) [Being One] Who Bears the Yoke with One's Colleagues |
| 17) Moderation in Pleasure | 39) [Being One] Who Judges One's Colleagues Favorably |
| 18) Moderation in Sleep | 40) Directing People to Truth and Peace |
| 19) Moderation in Speech | 41) Having a Calm Mind Due to Study |
| 20) Moderation in Laughter | |
| 21) Long-Suffering Patience; Slowness to Anger | |
| 22) Having a Good Heart | |

- 42) [Being One] Who Asks and Answers
- 43) [Being One] Who Listens and Adds
- 44) Studying in Order to Teach
- 45) Studying in Order to Practice
- 46) [Being One] Who Makes One's Teacher Wiser

- 47) Reporting Exactly What Has Been Learned
and
- 48) Quoting a Teaching in the Name of the Person
Who Said It.

Original Thought Questions for Pirkei Avot 6:6

- 1. What does this text say about the value of Torah?
- 2. What does it mean to acquire Torah? Can one ever acquire Torah?
- 3. Why are behavior, values, and attitude important for the study of Torah?
- 4. What is Torah according to this list?

[Midrash] Exodus Rabbah 5:9

At Sinai, when the Holy One gave the Torah to Israel, God manifested marvels upon marvels for Israel with [God's] voice. How so? As the Holy One spoke, the voice reverberated throughout the world. At first Israel heard the voice coming to them from the south, so they ran to the south to meet the voice there. It shifted to the north, so they ran to the north. Then it shifted to the east, so they ran to the east, but from the east it shifted to the west, so they ran to the west. Next it shifted to heaven. But when they raised their eyes toward heaven, it seemed to rise out of the earth. Hence Israel asked one another, "But wisdom, where shall it be found? And where is the place of understanding?" (Job 28:12). "And all the people perceived the thunderings" (Exodus 20:15). Since there was only one voice, why "thunderings" in the plural? Because God's voice mutated into seven voices, and the seven voices into seventy languages, so that all the nations might hear it.

Original Thought Questions for Exodus Rabbah 5:9

- 1. What are the implications for where God's teaching and wisdom can be found in the world?
- 2. What are the implications for whom the Torah is intended?
- 3. Are we still running around trying to find meaning?
- 4. Are we still running around trying to find God?