



### [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:

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| 1) Study   | 28) Claiming No Credit for Oneself                            |
| 2) Careful (Attentive) Listening                     | 29) [Being One] Who is Beloved                                |
| 3) Ordered Speech                                    | 30) [Being One] Who Loves God                                 |
| 4) Understanding of the Heart (Insight)              | 31) [Being One] Who Loves People                              |
| 5) Awe   | 32) [Being One] Who Loves Justice                             |
| 6) Reverence   | 33) [Being One] Who Loves Reproof                             |
| 7) Humility/Modesty                                  | 34) [Being One] Who Loves Equity                              |
| 8) Joy, Cheerfulness                                 | 35) Distancing Oneself from Glory                             |
| 9) Purity  | 36) [Being One] Who Does Not Boast of One's Knowledge         |
| 10) Attending to Teachers                            | 37) [Being One] Who Does Not Enjoy Passing Judgments          |
| 11) Close Association with Peers                     | 38) [Being One] Who Bears the Yoke with One's Colleagues      |
| 12) Engaging in Debate and Discussion with Disciples | 39) [Being One] Who Judges One's Colleagues Favorably         |
| 13) Self Control, Composure                          | 40) Directing People to Truth and Peace                       |
| 14) [Knowledge of] Bible and Mishnah                 | 41) Having a Calm Mind Due to Study                           |
| 15) Moderation in Business                           | 42) [Being One] Who Asks and Answers                          |
| 16) Moderation in Worldly Matters                    | 43) [Being One] Who Listens and Adds                          |
| 17) Moderation in Pleasure                           | 44) Studying in Order to Teach                                |
| 18) Moderation in Sleep                              | 45) Studying in Order to Practice                             |
| 19) Moderation in Speech                             | 46) [Being One] Who Makes One's Teacher Wiser                 |
| 20) Moderation in Laughter                           | 47) Reporting Exactly What Has Been Learned                   |
| 21) Long-Suffering Patience; Slowness to Anger       | <b>and</b>  |
| 22) Having a Good Heart                              | 48) Quoting a Teaching in the Name of the Person Who Said It. |
| 23) Having Trust and Faith in Teachers               |   |
| 24) Acceptance of Suffering                          |   |
| 25) Knowing One's Place                              |   |
| 26) Rejoicing in One's Portion                       |   |
| 27) Setting a Limit to One's Words                   |   |

### Thought Questions:

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?

**[Talmud] Pirkei Avot 5:25**

Ben Bag Bag said:

Turn it, and turn it again, for everything is in it.

Pore over it, grow old and gray over it.

Do not budge from it.

You can have no better guide for living than it.

**Thought Questions:**

1. What does this imply about the relevance or timeliness of Torah?
2. In order for this to be true, how much time do you need to spend with the Torah?
3. If the words of Torah do not change, what changes over time?
4. If this is true, can you ever stop studying or learning?

**VOTE FOR ONE OF THESE READINGS IN SWEET SIXTEEN: MATCH 1**

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