



PIRKEI AVOT: CONTENT, THEME, & STRUCTURE

CHAPTER ONE: THEMES

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MISHNAH	SPEAKER	MESSAGE
1:1	Men of the Great Assembly	Judge Fairly. Teach Many. Protect Torah.
1:2	Simeon the Righteous	World depends on: Torah, Worship, Kindness.
1:3	Antigonus of Socho	Don't serve (God?) for the sake of reward. Fear Heaven.
1:4	Josi b. Joezer of Tzereda	Welcome Sages, humble yourself (be close to them). Drink their words.
1:5	Josi b. Johanan of Jerusalem	Open home, honor/feed poor, avoid women.
1:6	Joshua b. Perahya	Get teacher, Acquire friend, Judge all charitably.
1:7	Nittai the Arbelite	Avoid bad neighbor, wicked, don't give up on retribution
1:8	Judah b. Tabbai	Make not thyself as a counselor, be skeptical, forgiving.
1:9	Simeon b. Shetach	Examine witnesses, be careful with words, lest they learn to be deceitful
1:10	Shemayah	Love work. Hate lordship. Avoid ruling powers.
1:11	Avtalion	Watch your words, lest you incur exile, death of disciples and profanation of Heavenly Name.
1:12	Hillel	Be like Aaron, peace/love, and bring people close to Torah.
1:13	Hillel	Humility, Add knowledge, study, don't make worldly use of Torah.
1:14	Hillel	If I am not for myself who will be for me? If I am for my own self, what am I? If not now when?
1:15	Shammai	Make the study of Torah a fixed duty. Say little - do much. Receive every man with cheer.
1:16	R. Gamliel (Gamliel I)	Provide yourself a teacher. Avoid doubt. Don't guess.
1:17	Simeon, his son	Be silent. Don't learn, act. Don't speak too much.
1:18	Simeon b. Gamliel	World depends on: Judgment, Truth, Peace.