

TRACTATE AVOT

TEXT: MISHNA 3:8



GAVRIEL Z. BELLINO



R. Dostai ben R. Yannai said in the name of R. Meir:

רַבִּי דּוֹסְתַּאי בְּרַבִּי יַנַּאי מִשׁוּם רַבִּי מֵאִיר אוֹמֵר:

Everyone who forgets {even} one word of his study is regarded as if he were guilty against his soul, as it is said: "Only take care and watch your soul diligently, lest you forget the words which your eyes have seen (Deut. 4: 9)."

Is this so even when his study has become difficult for him? Read the text "and lest they are removed from your heart all the days of your life (Deut. 4: 9)," thus he is not guilty until he sits and {deliberately} removes them from his heart.

כָּל הַשּׁוֹכֵחַ דְּבָר אֶחָד מִמִּשְׁנָתוֹ, מַעֲלֶה עָלָיוּ הַכָּתוּב כְּאִלּוּ מִתְחַיֵּב בְּנַפְשׁוֹ, שָׁנֶאֶמַר (דברים ד), רַק הִשָּׁמֶר לְךָ וּשְׁמֹר נַפְשְׁךְ מְאֹד פָּן תִּשְׁכַּח אֶת הַדְּבָרִים אֲשֶׁר רָאוּ עֵינֶיךְ.

יָכוֹל אֲפָלּוּ תָקְפָה עָלָיו מִשְׁנָתוֹ, תַּלְמוּד לוֹמַר (שם) וּפֶן יָסוּרוּ מִלְּבָבְךְ כֹּל יְמֵי חַיֶּיךְ, הָא אֵינוֹ מִתְחַיֵּב בְּנַפְשׁוֹ עַד שֵׁיֵשֶׁב וִיסִירֵם מִלְבּוֹ: