

אחרי מות - קדשים

איש אמו ואביו תיראו Rashi brings the Gemara Kidushin 31, how one should have **מורא** - fear of his parents. He should not sit in their place, nor speak in their place and should not contradict their words. The gemara explains as well how to properly do **כיבוד אב ואם**, by serving them food and drink etc. The Poskim add, that although what the gemara says we must certainly do, the primary aspect of **כבוד** and fear is in the heart. The child should view his parents as important and respectable and to feel awed by them.(Chayei Adam 67;3). The gemara, however, makes no mention of this, focusing instead on the practical aspect of the mitzvah.

Rav Yeruchom Levovitz, זצ"ל, explains that although it may be true that the mitzvah of **כיבוד** and **מורא** lies primarily in the heart, nevertheless, it should not remain only in the heart. It must translate into practical application. The Torah refers to all mitzvos as **מצוות עשה ומצוות לא תעשה**, to do and not to do. The actions one does in fulfilling the mitzvah, should be a manifestation of his feelings for the mitzvah. This is what the gemara is coming to explain. How does one properly express that respect he feels in his heart into practice.

This is true not only regarding the mitzvah of **כיבוד אב ואם**, but for all mitzvos that are fulfilled primarily in the heart. The mitzvah of **ואהבת לרעך כמוך**, love your fellow Jew, is not sufficiently fulfilled with love alone, but one must also make the effort to actually help out his friend. The same applies to **אהבת ה'** and **יראת ה'**, love and fear of Hashem. To properly fulfill these Mitzvos, we must strive to bring them to practical application such as improving one's davening, learning Torah and **שמירת המצוות**. Doing so, will truly bring us closer to Hashem.

Have a good Shabbos.

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