

Gateway to Mitzvos Bain Adam L'chavero

Machon Toras Hadam L'adam is a Torah research institute located in the holy city of Safed, Israel. The Machon's mission is the in-depth study and dissemination of the Torah laws that govern interpersonal relationships, (not pertaining to monetary duties). Known as *Mitzvos Bain Adam L'chavero*, these mitzvos comprise a considerable amount of the 613 mitzvos.

Yet, whereas countless seforim and responsa deal thoroughly and extensively with Shabbos, ritual slaughter, etc., the mitzvos bain adam l'chavero have remained comparatively obscure. The relatively scant amount that has been written is scattered throughout the Torah literature.

This is a rather surprising phenomenon because relationships between man and his fellow man aside from constituting a sizeable amount of commandments, are mitzvos that must be observed daily. Knowing how to perform these mitzvos properly is not only our obligation, it is crucial to a life free of strife, conflicts, disputes and hatred. In essence, it is the key to happiness and peace of mind.

Early in this century, due largely to the influence of Rav Yisroel Salanter and subsequently the Chofetz Chaim, these mitzvos began to come to the fore. The fruits of their labor are apparent today – the widespread study of the laws of slander and gossip serves as an example.

Today's world is different than it was in previous times. We live in much closer proximity one to the other and our generation is a rushed and competitive one. These factors along with advanced communication systems insure that we are in contact and associate with more people and more often than ever before. Therefore a clear and explicit understanding of the Torah's outlook on man to man relations is essential.

Presenting the public both learned and lay with a comprehensive study of these laws is what the Machon has set out to accomplish. And it is quite a challenge; beginning with the culling of the information from the vast amount of rabbinical sources in libraries and personal collections, organizing and clarification of the Halacha to the presentation of the material in a lucid and stimulating fashion.