

**Treating Your Significant Other Like a VIP**

**Pirkei Avos 2:10**

*...Rabbi Eliezer would say: The honor (kavod) of your friend should be as dear to you as your own...*

**Pirkei Avos 4:15**

*Rabbi Elazar ben (son of) Shamua says: Let the honor (kavod) of your student should be as dear to you as your own; the honor of your friend as the the reverence for your [Torah] teacher; and the reverence for your teacher as the reverence for Heaven.*

**Talmud, Yevamos 62b**

*Rabbi Akiva had twelve thousand pairs of students from Givat to Antiprat and they all died during one period of time because they did not treat each other with respect. The world was desolate until Rabbi Akiva came to the Rabbis of the South and taught them. [They were] Rabbi Meir, Rabbi Yehudah, Rabbi Yossi, Rabbi Shimon, and Rabbi Elazar ben Shamua. It was they who re-established Torah at that time.*

**#1**

**Pirkei Avos 4:15**

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Our Mishna seems to be saying that we should always “increase by one” when relating to others. Treat a Torah teacher, colleague, or student one notch higher than he or she actually deserves.

**Questions:**

**(a) What could be the reason(s) for that?**

**(b) Are we saying that really they are not due that degree of respect, yet we should accord it anyway? Are we being told to \*pretend\* — to practice something we know deep down is really not deserved?**

**Isn't this a form of flattery, which is forbidden by the Torah?**

**(c)**

**Reishis Chochmah, Shaar Hayirah, ch. 12**

*When a person comes to the World of Truth, to the Heavenly Court, he will be asked several questions. One of them will be ‘Did you make your friend a king over you?’*

**Question: How and why would I make my friend a king over me?**

**Aren’t we peers?**

**#2**

**Rambam (Maimonides), *Laws of Marriage 15:19,20***

*...Our Sages commanded that a man honor his wife more than his own person, and love her as he loves his own person. And similarly, they commanded a woman to honor her husband exceedingly...considering him to be an officer or a king. This is the custom of holy and pure Jewish women and men in their marriages. And these ways will make their marriage pleasant and praiseworthy.*

According to our Sages, the secret to a happy marriage is having an extremely high level of respect.

**Question: Isn’t love a much stronger foundation of a happy relationship?**

**# 3**

**Pirkei Avos 4:15**

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Our Mishnah makes an emphasis on those that are close to you - ‘your student’, ‘your friend’, ‘your teacher’.

**Questions:**

**Why is it harder to show respect to those that are close to us - e.g. relatives, spouse- and relatively easy to those that we don't interact with much?**

**Any way to fix this?**

**# 4**

**Question: What’s your takeaway from today’s discussion?**