

# 1. Know Your Talents

## 1 Bereishis - 1:27

ויברא אלקים את האדם בצלמו בצלם אלקים  
ברא אתו

Hashem created man in his image, in the  
image of Hashem He created him.

## Gemara Sanhedrin – 37a

כל אחד ואחד חייב לומר:  
בשבילי נברא העולם

Every person is obligated to  
say: The world was created  
for me.

## 2 Alei Shur – 1:169

אוי ואבוי לאדם שאינו מכיר מעלותיו כי הן אפילו  
את כלי עבודתו אינו מכיר

Woe to the person that doesn't recognize his  
abilities. He doesn't even know the tools he has  
to work with

## 3 Mesilas Yesharim – 1

שיתברר ויתאמת אצל האדם מה חובתו  
בעולמו

It must clear to a person, what is his mission on  
this world.

## 4 Gemara Gittin – 58a

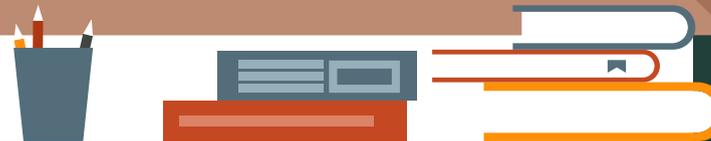
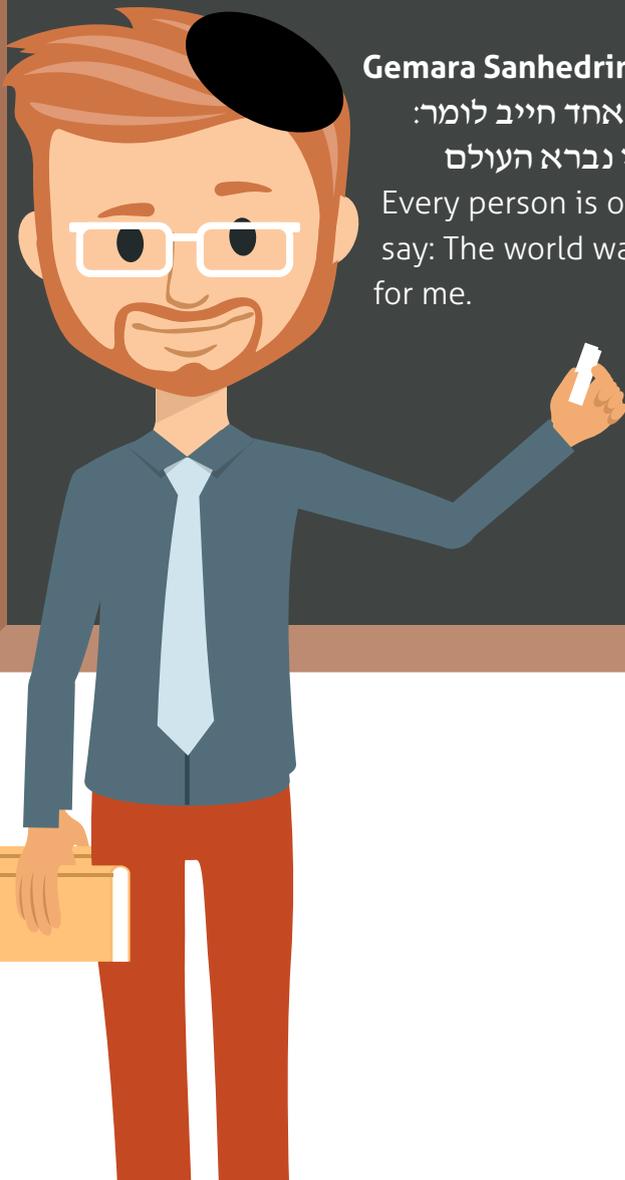
תינוק אחד יש בבית האסורים, יפה עינים וטוב רואי  
וקווצותיו סדורות לו תלתלים

There is a young boy in prison, with beautiful  
eyes, good looks, and well kept hair.



“Shimi  
knew he  
had this  
incredible  
talent...”

Am I  
aware  
of my  
talents? ?



# Know Your Talents

## Summary:

Hashem created each person with a 'Tzelem Elokim', an eternal soul which is more precious to Hashem than any angel, but we also each have our own 'tzelem', our own unique nature and talents. We all need to learn to say about ourselves "the world was created for me!". Each of us has a purpose in this world which is unique, that only we can accomplish.

These talents are our tailormade tools for us to accomplish what Hashem wants from us in this world. We need to put a lot of effort into recognizing our talents. Since we each have a unique talent and mission in this world, we cannot copy what other people are doing, we have to think about what's right for us.

We need to believe that Hashem will lead us to wherever we need to be in life to accomplish what we can. If we recognize our talents, and trust that Hashem will give us what we need in life, we too can be great people, like Rav Yehoshua said about the young boy in a Roman prison.

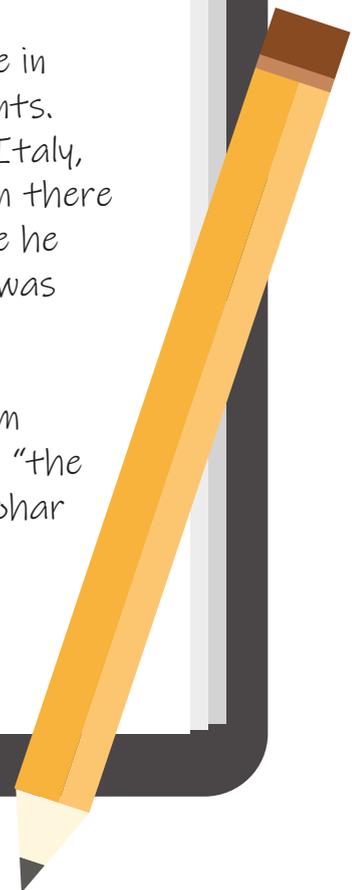
## Biography:



Rav Chaim ben Attar (1696 - 1743) is popularly known as the Ohr Hachaim Hakadosh, after his commentary on the chumash.

Born in Morocco, he decided to settle in Eretz Yisrael, together with students. On the way, he passed by Livorno, Italy, where he published his sfarim. From there he journeyed to Yerushalayim, where he established a Yeshiva. The Chidah was amongst his students.

His sefer is one of only three sefarim which are referred to as Hakadosh, "the holy one." The other two are the Zohar Hakadosh and the Shlah Hakadosh.



## 2. It's Never Too Late!

### 1. Gemara Brachos - 10a

אפילו חרב חדה מונחת על צוארו של אדם, אל ימנע עצמו מן הרחמים

Even with a sharp sword lying on the neck of a man, he should not hold himself back from asking Hashem for mercy.

### 2. Zohar – Acharei Mos

וטרם שברא הקדוש ברוך הוא את העולם, ברא תשובה

Before Hashem created the world, He created teshuva.

### Zohar - Mishpatim

אין דבר בעולם העומד לפני תשובה

There is nothing in this world that can stand before teshuva.

### 3. Rabbeinu Yonah - Yesod Hateshuva

כי יחשוב איך אוכל להעיז פני ולשוב ואני חטאתי עויתי פשעתי כזאת וכזאת עשיתי.  
אל יחשוב כן כי המסית יושב כזבוב במפתחי הלב .... ומשים לבו לעצה הרעה הזאת

A person could think, how could I be so brazen and return after I have sinned and done this and that! .... Don't think that! That is the yetzer hara sitting like a fly in your heart ... putting that bad idea in there.

### 4. Baal Shem Tov - Bechukosai

ולכך אין לך רשע שאינו מהרהר בתשובה מצד שמיעת הכרוז במחשבה

That is why even a wicked person thinks about repenting. He hears in his thoughts the proclamation that Heaven makes [every day, "Do teshuva!"]



“I thought to myself, ‘That’s it. You’re done. You can quit. Nobody is going to hire me again.’”

*But Hashem still knows the power lies inside us Even when we don't remember*

*Every day we get to mend the days behind us And we're invited back again, a calling from Hashem, for a second chance*



# It's Never Too Late!

## Summary:

People sometimes think that they have no way to fix what they have done. Shimi made this mistake after he missed the concert. The truth is, however, that teshuva is possible in every situation. King Chizkiyahu made that very clear to us, when he proved to all that even when all seems lost, the gates of teshuva are still open.

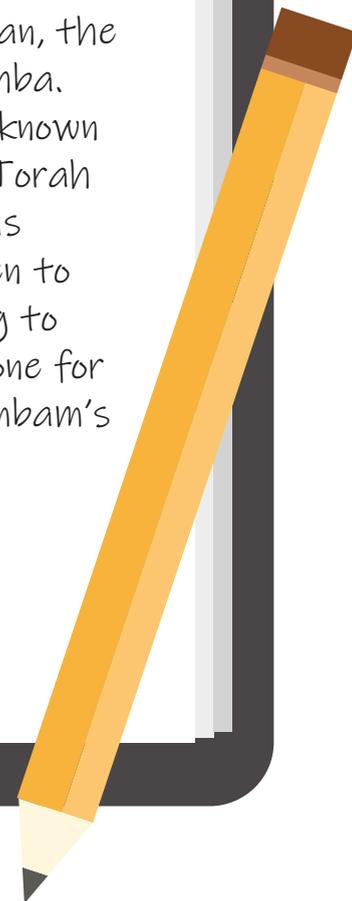
Chazal teach us Hashem knew that we would stumble and created teshuva for us even before the world was created, so we should regret our mistakes, but not be brought down by them. The neviim repeat this point again and again: Just turn to Hashem and he will accept you.

Even in our times, when we no longer have the neviim, Hashem reaches out to us every day. In a way that we can sense, He encourages us to fix our mistakes.

## Biography:



Rabbeinu Yonah (1210 - 1263) lived in Catalonia, present day Spain. He was one of the Rishonim, a leader of his generation. He is slightly less known than his first cousin and mechutan, the Ramban, or his student the Rashba. Of the Rishonim, he is unusually known more for his piusness than his Torah learning. His most famous sefer is Shaarei Teshuva, a sefer written to help people do teshuva. According to some he wrote the sefer to atone for having strongly opposed the Ramban's philosophical sefer, the Moreh Nevuchim.



# Let's Get Real

1

What's your talent? Take some time today to think about what you're really good at. Make a list of your top ten skills. Then circle the top 5. Then the top 3. Are those your gifts from Hashem that can help you change the world?

2

R' Yehoshua ben Chananya recognized a talent in someone else. Take the time to think about the talents that the people in your life have and appreciate them for it.

3

Can you think of any mistakes that you have made in your life that you have swept under the rug? Take a moment to think about it and realize that you can make up for your mistake. Either by mending the damage, or by just sincerely feeling bad about it. It's never too late.

# Challenge Yourself!



1) What statement does the Mishna make that we all need to learn to say about ourselves?

2) Why is it important to figure out your strengths?

3) Why was Rav Yehoshua impressed that the young boy in a Roman prison looked good?

4) What did Chizkiyahu teach the navi about teshuva?

5) What does the Bas Kol declare every day and how do we hear it?

6) What thought does the yetzer hara use to try and stop you from doing teshuvah?