# 18FORTY NCSU

## WHY IS GEMARA AT THE CENTER OF JEWISH LEARNING?

## הקדמה למשנה תורה, מסירת תורה שבעל פה

וְאֵין צָרִיךְ לוֹמֵר, הַתַּלְמוּד עַצְמוֹ: הַבַּבְלִי, וְהַיְרוּשְׁלְמִי, וְסִפְּרָא, וְסִפְּרֵי, וְהַתּוֹסֶפְּתוֹת – שְׁהֶן צְרִיכִין דַּעַת רְחָבָה...

וְנָפֶשׁ חֲכָמָה וּזְמָן אָרוּך, וְאַחַר כָּךְ יִנָּדֶע מֵהֶן הַדֶּרֶךְ הַנְּכְוֹחָה בַּדְּבָרִים הָאֲסוּרִין וְהַמֶּתָרִין וּשְׁאַר דִּינֵי תּוֹרָה הֵיאַר הִיא. וּמִפְּנִי זָה נָעַרְתִּי חָצְנִי, אֲנִי משֶׁה בֵּירִבִּי מִיְמוֹן הַסְּפָרַדִּי, נְנְשְׁעַנְתִּי עַל הַצּוֹר בָּרוּךְ הוּא, וּבִינוֹתִי בְּכָל אֵלּוּ הַחְבּוּרִין, בְּעְנִיֵן הָאָסוּר וְהַמָּמָר וְהַטָּמֵא וְהַטָּהוֹר עִם שְׁאָר דְּינֵי תּוֹרָה: כֻּלָּן בְּלָשׁוֹן בְּרוּרָה וְדֶרֶךְ קְצָרָה, עַד שְׁתְּהָא תּוֹרָה שֶּבְעַל פָּה כֻּלָּה סְדוּרָה בְּפִי הַכֹּל – בְּלֹא קַשְּיָה וְלֹא בְּרוּכִים נְּלוֹנִים, עַל פִּי הַמִּשְׁפָּט אֲשֶׁר יִתְבָּאֵר מִכְּל פָּרוּק וְלֹא זָה אוֹמֵר בְּכֹה וְזֶה אוֹמֵר בְּכֹה, אֵלָא דְּבָרִים בְּרוּרִים קְרוֹבִים נְכוֹנִים, עַל פִּי הַמִּשְׁפָט אֲשֶׁר יִתְבָּאֵר מִכָּל פֵּרוּקין וְהַפֵּרוּשִׁין הַנִּמְרוֹשׁוֹ לָבָּרִים מִיְמוֹת רַבָּנוּ הַקְּרִים שְׁתְּלְוֹת בְּרִין וְהַפּרוּשִׁין הַנִּנְאַאִים מִיְמוֹת רַבָּנוּ הַקְּרִים שְׁתְּבָּוֹ לְנִי הְעַלְּתִי בְּכְלֵל שְּבְּיִלְ וְהַבּּרוֹין וְהַבּּרוֹשׁ וְתָּבְי הְשְּרִאֹם וּנְבִי מְעִבְּע בָּה בְּלָבוֹ תְוֹבְבִין לְבָּל מִבְּוֹ וְעַדְ חָבּוּר הָתַלְמוֹד וְנְבִי הְבָּלְלוֹ שְׁנְבְּבְיּ לְנִילְ שָּבְּבְיּוֹ וְשְבִּתְיבִי וְשְּרָאֵל אַנְיּבְוּ בְּיִבְית הְיִבְיּוֹ וְשְבִּתְיבִי וְשְּרָאבוֹי וְבְּלְבוֹי הְנִילְם בְּבְּיוֹ תְשְּבְעוֹ בְּנִי הְעָבוּ הְנִילְ הְבָּוֹ בְּעִי בְּבִיר שְׁהְשְּבְּעוֹ בְּיִבְּי בְּנִיתְם בְּבְּנִי וְשְּבִּת הְיִבּיר הָּבְּרִי בְּתִבּיר הְיִבְּיִי הְיִבְּנִי בְּיִבְיר הְיּבְירִים בְּבְירִים בְּבְּרִיתְ וְהְבֹּירְ בְּבְּבְיּבְּל בְּיִל בְּיבְּעִי הְיִבְירִים הְעִבְּיתְ הְיבְיּבְיוֹ בְיבְּתְבְּיתְ הְשְּבְעוֹ בְּעִר בְּנְלְיבְיךְ הְבְּבְּרִים בְּבְּבְירִים בְּבְיּבְיוֹ הְשְּבְּית בְּיבְיוֹ הְבְּיבְיתוֹ הְיבְּבְיתְ הְנִין וְבְּבְּיתְ הְשְבְּיבְיוֹ הְעִבְּיתְ בְּבְיּבְיוֹ בְּבְיתְיתְי חְצִיבְיוֹ בְּנְיתְייִי הְעְבְּיבְּיוֹ בְּיוֹילְיתְי הְנִילְים מְּבְיוֹ הְבְּילְיוֹ בְּבְּיוֹ בְינִיתְיתְי הְיבְּבְיוֹין וְבְּבְּבְיו

## INTRODUCTION TO RAMBAM'S MISHNA TORAH

...not to speak of the Talmud itself, both the Babylonian and the Jerusalemean, the Sifra, Sifre and Tosefta, which require a broad understanding, a soul endowed with wisdom and lengthy reflection when after one may find the right path therein, to ascertain the things which are forbidden and the things which are permitted, or to fathom the how and why of the other laws of the Torah. Therefore, have I, Moses son of Maimon, of Spain, girded up my loins, and, supporting myself upon the Rock, blessed be He! made a comprehensive study of all those books and minded myself to construct out of all these compilations a clear summary on the subject of that which is forbidden or permitted, defiled or clean along with the other laws of the Torah, the whole scope in pure language and concise style, so that the Oral Torah be entirely methodical in the mouth of everybody, without query and without repartee, without the contentious thus of one and such of another, but clear text, cohesive, correct, in harmony with the law which is defined out of all these existing compilations and commentaries from the days of our Holy Master till now; so that all laws be open to young and old, whether they be laws concerning each and every commandment or whether they be laws concerning matters instituted by scholars and prophets. The main object of the matter being, that no man shall have a need of any other compilation in the world for any law of the laws of Israel, but this compilation shall be a cyclopedia of the whole Oral Torah together with a code of the statutes, customs and edicts which were enacted since the days of Moses our Master until the close of the Talmud, even as they were interpreted for us by the Gaonim in all their compilations which were compiled by them since the Talmudic era. Therefore, have I named this compilation Mishnah Torah; for, when one studies Holy Writ first and thereafter reads this Work, he obtains herefrom a complete knowledge of the Oral Torah, having no need to read any other book in between them.

#### משנה שבת ו:ד

לֹא יֵצֵא הָאִישׁ לֹא בְסַיְף, וְלֹא בְקֶשֶׁת, וְלֹא בִתְרִיס, וְלֹא בְאַלָּה, וְלֹא בְרֹמֵח. וְאָם יָצָא, חַיֶּב חַטָּאת. רַבִּי אֱלִיעֶזֶר אוֹמֵר, תַּכְשִׁיטִין הַן לוֹ. וַחַכָּמִים אוֹמְרִים, אֵינָן אֶלָּא לְגְנַאי, שֶׁנֶּאֱמֵר (ישעיה ב) וְכִּתְּתוּ חַרְבוֹתָם לְאָתִּים וַחֲנִיתוֹ־ תֵיהָם לְמַזִּמֵרוֹת, לֹא יִשָּא גוֹי אֵל גוֹי חֵרֵב וָלֹא יִלְמִדוּ עוֹד מִלְחַמָה.

### **MISHNA SHABBAT 6:4**

Just as it is prohibited for a woman to carry out certain items unique to a woman into the public domain, the Sages said that a man may neither go out on Shabbat with a sword, nor with a bow, nor with a shield [teris], nor with an alla, nor with a spear. And if he unwittingly went out with one of these weapons to the public domain he is liable to bring a sin-offering. Rabbi Eliezer says: These weapons are ornaments for him; just as a man is permitted to go out into the public domain with other ornaments, he is permitted to go out with weapons. And the Rabbis say: They are nothing other than reprehensible and in the future they will be eliminated, as it is written: "And they shall beat their swords into plowshares and their spears into pruning hooks; nation will not raise sword against nation, neither will they learn war anymore" (Isaiah 2:4).

#### RAV SOLOVEITCHIK AT PIDYON HABEN IN 1974

"I start the shiur, I don't know what the conclusion will be. Whenever I start the shiur, the door opens, another old man walks in and sits down. He is older than I am. All the talmidim call me the Ray, he is older than the Rav. He is the grandfather of the Rav; his name is Reb Chaim Brisker. And without whom no shiur can be delivered nowadays. Then, the door opens quietly again and another old man comes in, he is older than Reb Chaim, he lived in the 17th century. What's his name? Shabsai Kohenthe famous Shach- who must be present when dinei mamonos (i.e. civil law) are being discussed... And then, more visitors show up. Some lived, some of the visitors lived in the 11th century, some in the 12th century, some in the 13th century, some lived in antiquity- Rebbe Akiva, Rashi, Rabbenu Tam, the Ra'avad, the Rashba, more and more come in, come in, come in. Of course, what do I do? I introduce them to my pupils and the dialogue commences. The Rambam says something, the Ra'avad disagrees; and sometimes he's very nasty.... A boy jumps up to defend the Rambam against the Ra'avad. A boy jumps up to defend the Rambam against the Ra'avad and the boy is fresh. You know how young boys are. He uses improper language, so I correct him. And another jumps up with a new idea; the Rashba smiles gently. I try to analyze what the young boy meant, another boy intervenes, we call upon the Rabbenu Tam to express his opinion, and suddenly a symposium of generations comes into existence." (Recording of Rav Soloveitchik: HERE)

WHY IS GEMARA AT THE CENTER OF JEWISH LEARNING?

