

## PIRKEI AVOT 2-8

### Translation:

**He used to say: More meat, more worms; more possessions, more worry; more women, more witchcraft; more maidservants, more immorality; more slaves, more theft. More Torah, more life; more schooling, more wisdom; more advice, more understanding; more *tzedakah*, more peace. One who acquires a good name has acquired something for himself. One who acquires words of Torah has acquired life in the World to Come.**

### Rav Chaim of Volozhin

(As Read by Chanoch Levi in  
"Ruach Chaim")

**More possessions, more worry.** It is predestined whether or not a person will be successful in business (Niddah 16b). The only thing he can add with his extra exertion is a greater measure of worry. For no man dies having reached even half of his material goals (Midrash Koheles). The more he strives to acquire more possessions, therefore, the greater his worry, for he will never feel satisfied. **More Torah, more life.** Even if it requires personal sacrifice and suffering, Torah study prolongs life. **More schooling, more wisdom.** It is common to find many Torah scholars in a yeshivah setting, many of whom are fit to be your masters. This

הוא הִזָּה אוֹמֵר, מְרַבֶּה בְּשָׂרָה,  
מְרַבֶּה רָמָה. מְרַבֶּה נְכֹסִים,  
מְרַבֶּה דְאָגָה. מְרַבֶּה נָשִׁים,  
מְרַבֶּה כְּשָׁפִים. מְרַבֶּה שְׁפָחוֹת,  
מְרַבֶּה זָמָה. מְרַבֶּה עֲבָדִים,  
מְרַבֶּה גִּזְלָה. מְרַבֶּה תוֹרָה,  
מְרַבֶּה חַיִּים. מְרַבֶּה יְשִׁיבָה,  
מְרַבֶּה חֲכָמָה. מְרַבֶּה עֲצָה,  
מְרַבֶּה תְּבוּנָה. מְרַבֶּה צְדָקָה,  
מְרַבֶּה שְׁלוֹם. קָנָה שֵׁם טוֹב,  
קָנָה לְעֵצְמוֹ. קָנָה לוֹ דְבָרֵי  
תוֹרָה, קָנָה לוֹ חַיֵּי הָעוֹלָם  
הַבָּא:

presents a tremendous opportunity to acquire wisdom, as we discussed in Avos 2:5. More advice, more understanding. Conventional wisdom suggests that we seek advice and then make a decision based on our own intelligence. If so, what is the purpose of taking counsel? An outsider, brilliant as he may be, cannot fully understand our situation because he does not have intimate knowledge of all the details. Only the consulter can fully appreciate the ramifications of his decision. He gathers nuggets of wisdom from all those from whom he seeks counsel, and then, with his enlightened understanding, comes to the proper decision. *Tevunah* is the ability to take knowledge and apply it in various areas. Thus, more advice, more understanding (*Tevunah*), for the consulter gathers the threads of much advice and weaves his own solution.

**More charity, more peace.** Even if one donates funds to charity which could have been used for a huge business deal, no harm will ever come to him, only peace.