

כבד
את אביך
ואת אמך
למען יאריך בך ימים

לואור ימים

MITZVAS
KIBUD
AV
V'AIM

A COMPENDIUM

REUVEN BECKER

לואור ימים

MITZVAS KIBUD AV V'AIM • A COMPENDIUM

1910

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ABOUT THE AUTHOR

A recipient of Rabbinic Ordination and Masters Degree in Jewish Education from Yeshiva University as well as Masters in Business Administration from City University, Reuven Becker's career has focused primarily on health care delivery consulting and administration. He founded L'Orech Yomim/ Center for Healthy Living, Inc. in 1999 to service the needs of the Orthodox Jewish community.

This Compendium is his first formal written work on a topic relating to Orthodox Jewish practice. He lives with his wife and family in Kew Gardens Hills, NY.

A COMPENDIUM

PREFACE

“ודעת לנפשך ינעם” KNOWLEDGE SOOTHES THE SOUL

(משלי ב:י)

Knowledge is acquired through independent self-study, life experience and consultation with expertise, e.g., Rabbonim, Poskim.

While *Kibud Av V'Aim* is a basic tenet of *Yahadus*, serving as a building block for family relations, many are unaware of the scope of the dictum. The Commandment has been deemed as among the most difficult to fulfill; for good cause. Our deep-rooted commitment and desire to do “what is right” can become frustrated by the challenges of parental demands and expectations, especially if they are frail and elderly, and compete with other family obligations.

At the same time, we may be placing undue pressure on ourselves, imposing feelings of guilt, anguish and the need for *Teshuvah*, by making unfounded assumptions regarding the *Halachah*.

כבוד
את אבִיךָ
ואת אמך
למען יאריכון ימיך

לֵאמֹר
יָמִים

MITZVAS
KIBUD
AV
V'AIM

A COMPENDIUM

Compiled by
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A Project of L'ORECH YOMIM / Center for Healthy Living, Inc.

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MITZVAS KIBUD AV V'AIM:

L'Orech Yomim community programming to hundreds of *Shomrai Torah Umitzvos* combined with the feedback from rabbinic leadership, reinforces the seriousness and scope of this circumstance.

We trust the Compendium will serve as a helpful tool in guiding our behavior, both as we relate to our own parents, as well as our expectations from our children as they relate to us. This should not preclude additional independent follow up, study of the texts and consultation with our Rabbis. Indeed this is encouraged and we wish to stimulate such activity.

The teaching of *Hilchos Kibud Av V'Aim* has not yet been incorporated into our children's curriculum. Perhaps this should also be considered.

Culled from a review of primary and secondary sources, this work is intended to expand the reader's knowledge, present an overview of *Torah Hashkafah* with the concomitant benefit of fostering *Menuchas HaNefesh*.

29.

Nursing home admission may be halachically appropriate and encouraged in the instance of an inability to sustain and care for your parent at home.

CARING FOR THE FRAIL AND SICK

We have noted that:

- Attending to personal care needs is fundamental to *Kibud Av V'Aim*¹.
- Obtaining help, both physical² as well as spiritual³, can be an *halachic* mandate.

40.

Regular consultation with an experienced *posek* in this area of *halachah* is advisable and helpful to both assure compliance to the *mitzvah* and address the accompanying natural challenges to *sholom bayes*.

- Visits and assistance to parents who are unable to acknowledge your presence provides comfort to them, and is a *kiyum* of the *mitzvah*.⁹
- To fulfill the *mitzvah*, it must be provided with a warm, pleasing demeanor.¹⁰