

Thank You Notes & Texts

A Collaboration of JPRO and Hadar

1. Our work and our community are stronger because of you

Babylonian Talmud Baba Batra 21a

שאלמלא הוא נשתכח תורה מישראל, שבתחלה מי שיש לו אב מלמדום תורה... ותיקן שיהו מושיבין למדי תינוקות בכל מדינה ומדינה ובכל עיר ועיר.

She-ilmalei hu nishtakhah Torah mi-Yisrael, she-ba-tehilah mi she-yesh lo av melam'do Torah... ve-tikein she-yehu moshivin melam'dei tinokon be-khol medinah u-medinah u-ve-khol ir va-ir.

If it were not for [Yehoshua son of Gamla], the Torah would have been forgotten from Israel, for in the beginning one's parents would teach them Torah... [but Yehoshua] instituted school teachers in every city and every town!

2. Thank you for being generous with your time

Babylonian Talmud Sukkah 49b

גדולה גמילות חסדים יותר מן הצדקה; צדקה בממונו גמילות חסדים בין בגופו בין בממונו.

Gedolah gemilut hasadim yoter min ha-tzedakah: tzedakah be-mamono, gemilut hasadim bein be-gufo bein be-mamono.

Kindness is greater than charity, for charity can be done only with one's money, but kindness can be done with one's person and one's money.



3. Thank you for building bridges

Genesis Rabbah 76:9

עשה עצמו כגשר.

Asah atzmo ke-gesher.

[When Jacob got his family across the river in two camps ahead of his murderous brother Esau,] He made himself a bridge.

4. Thank you for sharing your wisdom

Mishnah Avot 1:4

יוסי בן יועזר איש צרדה אומר: "יהי ביתך בית ועד לחכמים, והוי מתאבק בעפר רגליהם, והוי שותה בצמא את דבריהם."

Yose ben Yoezer ish Tzeredah omer: "Yehi veitkha beit va'ad la-hakhamim, ve-hevei mitabeik ba-afar ragleihem, ve-hevei shoteh va-tzama et divreihem."

Yose son of Yoezer of Tzeredah says: "Let your home be a meeting place for sages, sit in the dust at their feet, and drink thirstily their words."

5. With gratitude for all that you do to make our dreams a reality

Genesis 41:13

וְיְהִי כַּאֲשֶׁר פָּתַר-לָנוּ, כֵּן הָיָה.

Va-yehi ka-asher patar-lanu, kein hayah.

Just as [Joseph] had interpreted our dreams, so it happened.

6. The future will be brighter because of you

Siddur, blessings before the Shema

אור חדש על ציון תאיר, ונזכה כלנו מהרה לאורו.

Or hadash al Tziyon ta'ir ve-nizkeh khulanu meheirah le-oro.

Shine a new light on Zion, and may we all merit its light soon!



7. You made the impossible possible

Zechariah 14:7

וְהָיָה יוֹם־אֶחָד - הוּא יָדוּעַ לַיהוָה - לֹא־יוֹם וְלֹא־לַיְלָה וְהָיָה לַעֲתֶ־עֶרֶב יְהִי־אֹר!

Ve-hayah yom ehad hu, yivada l-Adonai, lo yom ve-lo layla, ve-hayah le-et erev yihyeh or.

It will be one continuous day—God knows when—neither day nor night, and in the evening there will be light!

8. You help us grow

Psalms 92:13

צַדִּיק, כְּתֹמֶר יִפְרֹחַ; כְּאַרְז בְּלִבְנוֹן יִשְׁגֶּה.

Tzaddik ka-tamar yifrah, ke-erez bal'vanon yisgeh.

A righteous person shall flourish like the palm-tree; they shall grow like a cedar in Lebanon.

9. Your attention to detail makes big things happen

Proverbs 4:7

רֵאשִׁית חֲכָמָה קִנְיָה וְכָל־קִנְיָנָךְ קִנְיָה בִּינָה!

Reishit hokhmah, k'neih hokhmah, u-ve-khol kinyanekha k'neih vinah.

The beginning of wisdom is to acquire wisdom, with all your acquisitions acquire understanding!

10. Thank you for taking a risk

Esther 5:2

וַיְהִי כִּרְאוֹת הַמֶּלֶךְ אֶת־אֶסְתֵּר הַמַּלְכָּה עֹמֶדֶת בְּחֹצֵר נִשְׂאָה חֵן בְּעֵינָיו.

Va-yehi khir'ot ha-melekh et Esther ha-malkah omedet be-hatzer, nas'ah hein be-einav.

[In an act of extreme bravery, when Esther approached the King uninvited,] The King saw Queen Esther standing in the courtyard, and she found favor in his eyes.



11. Your creativity elevates our work

Mishnah Avot 2:8

רבי אלעזר בן ערך- מעין המתגבר... אם יהיו כל חכמי ישראל בכף מאזניים... ורבי אלעזר בן ערך בכף שניה, מכריע את כלם.

Rabbi Elazar ben Arakh—ma'yan ha-mitgaber... Im yihyu khol hakhmei Yisrael be-khaf moznayim... ve-Rabbi Elazar ben Arakh be-khaf sh'niyah, makhri'a et kulam.

R. Elazar son of Arakh is an everflowing stream... If all of the sages of Israel were on one side of a scale... but R. Elazar son of Arakh was on the other, he would outweigh them all.

12. Your behind-the-scenes work makes everything possible

Psalm 104:19

עשה ירח למועדים שמש ידע מבואו.

Asah yarei'ah le-mo'adim, shemesh yada mevo'o.

[God] made the moon for the seasons, the sun knows where it sets.

13. Thank you for believing in my idea

Psalm 121:3

אל-יתן למוט רגלך אל-ינום שמרך.

Al yitein la-mot raglekha, al yanum shom'rekha.

He will not let your foot stumble, your guardian does not sleep.

14. Thank you for listening

Song of Songs 8:13

היושבת בגנים, חברים מקשיבים לקולך; השמיעני.

Ha-yoshevet ba-ganim, haverim makshivim, le-kolekh hashmi'ini.

O you who linger in the garden, friends are listening; let me hear your voice.



15. You put the “fun” in fundraising

Exodus 35:21

וַיָּבֹאוּ, כָּל-אִישׁ אֲשֶׁר-נָשְׂאוֹ לְבָו; וְכָל אֲשֶׁר נָדְבָה רוּחוֹ אֹתוֹ, הֵבִיאוּ אֶת-תְּרוּמַת ה' לְמַלְאכָת אֹהֶל מוֹעֵד וּלְכָל-עֲבֹדָתוֹ, וּלְבִגְדֵי, הַקֹּדֶשׁ.

Va-yavo'u kol ish asher nesa'o libo ve-khol asher nad'vah ruho oto heivi'u et terumat Adonai.

And everyone who excelled in ability and everyone whose spirit moved them came, bringing to God their offering.

16. Thank you for making kindness a priority

Babylonian Talmud Sotah 14a

תורה - תחלתה גמילות חסדים וסופה גמילות חסדים.

Torah: tehilatah gemilut hasadim, ve-sofah gemilut hasadim.

The beginning of Torah is acts of kindness, and its end is acts of kindness.

17. Your feedback is helping me grow

Babylonian Talmud Ta'anit 7a

מה ברזל זה אחד מחדד את חבירו אף שני תלמידי חכמים מחדדין זה את זה בהלכה.

Mah barzel zeh ehad mehadet et havelero, af sh'nei talmidei hakhamim mehadedin zeh et zeh be-halakhah.

Just as one iron sharpens another, so too two disciples of the sages sharpen one another in learning



18. Thank you for diving in head-first

Babylonian Talmud 37a

קפץ נחשון בן עמינדב וירד לים תחילה.

Kafatz Naḥshon ben Aminadav va-yered la-yam tehilah.

Then, in jumped [the prince of Judah] Naḥshon ben Amminadab, and descended into the [Reed] sea first, [and only then, did the sea split].

