



Passionate Profession

How should one know which profession to enter? Just as we need shoes that fit us, the same is true with our job. Just as it is extremely difficult to walk around in someone else's shoes, the same is true of one's job. Yet many people continue to work at jobs they don't like.

The Chovos Halevavos writes that every person has a preference for a particular occupation or business over any other, as Hashem planted within his nature love and affection for it (Shaar HaBitachon, 3). This is just as we see with other creatures. For instance, Hashem implanted within the cat the instinct to catch mice. Within the nature of each animal species there is implanted a liking and desire for a certain kind of plant or animal which is ordained as its natural source of sustenance. The configuration of its body and limbs is suited for that particular thing. Examples include the strong teeth and claws of the lion and the horns of the ox and ram. On the other hand, animals whose sustenance comes from plant life are not provided with the tools for hunting and catching prey.

Among humans, there are different personalities and physiques that are predisposed towards certain trades and occupations. Whoever discovers within his personality and nature an attraction to a particular trade, and his body is fit for it and can endure its difficulty should pursue it and make it his means of livelihood, accepting its sweetness as well as its bitterness. The Chovos Halevavos concludes that we not be discouraged if income is denied on occasion, but to rather trust in Hashem

that He will provide us with a livelihood all our life.

So, one should choose a profession that he enjoys, that excites him, that he has passion and enthusiasm for. Then he eagerly gives 100% of himself when he is working, thereby putting forth his best effort. As the saying goes, "If you love what you do, you'll never have to work a day in your life."

For one to discover his natural talents, it has been suggested that he ask himself the following: (1) What am I good at? (2) What do others say I am good at? (3) What was I good at when I was young, before people said I can't do certain things? What am I naturally good at?

One who does what he enjoys can be successful at it. In this light, we can grasp כי יברוך ה' אלק יך בכל - תבואתך ובכל שמחה, Hashem will have blessed you in all your handiwork and you will be completely joyous (Devarim 16:15). If you are happy with your livelihood, you will succeed. In a similar vein, we can understand שמח זבולן בצאתך, Zevulun is happy when he goes out to work (Devarim 33:18). Rashi comments, הצלח הצלח, since joy and success go together.

When one travels and knows his destination, he drives in the express lane. However, if he is looking for an exit and is unsure where to get off, he will be in the slow lane. The same is true with respect to one's job. If someone is looking for an exit out of his situation because he doesn't like his job, he will not accomplish very much or be too productive.

The following is an analogy for this.

An employer sent a worker for a package that needed to be picked up. When the worker returned with a heavy package, the employer told him that it wasn't the right one, because the correct package was filled with diamonds and should be very light. That is the kind of job one should choose.

Many people look outside to see what jobs are available when they should really look inside themselves to see what it is that they truly love. Someone once said that a big mistake people make is that they try to force an interest on themselves. "You don't choose your passions; your passions choose you."

How do you know what your passion is? Passion can be described as who you are and what you love to do. It is not something you have to do but something you want to do. It may even be something you would do in your free time even if you didn't get paid for it! What interests you? What do you talk about most of the time? Some people have a passion for health. These people may be doctors, nutritionists, and the like. Others may desire travel. They may be pilots, traveling businessmen, etc. Others may pursue spirituality. They may be rebbis, mashgichim, and so on. Yet others may enjoy math. They may become statisticians, actuaries, accountants, etc.

Based on advice from the Stoliner Rebbe to do what one enjoys, a Stoliner chassid, who enjoyed traveling and directing boys in life, chose to be a recruiter for a post-high-school boys' yeshiva in Israel, for which he travels around the world. Is it any surprise that he is successful at what he does?

Rabbi Yehoshua Alt

To join the thousands of recipients and receive these insights free on a weekly email, obtain previous articles, feedback, comments, suggestions (on how to spread the insights of this publication further, make it more appealing or anything else), to support or dedicate this publication which has been in six continents and more than forty countries, or if you know anyone who is interested in receiving these insights weekly, please contact the author,
Rabbi Yehoshua Alt, at
yalt3285@gmail.com.
Thank you.

Listen to the NEW, short Fascinating Insights podcast at <https://jewishpodcasts.fm/fascinating-insights>, where it can also be downloaded!

Coming Soon Bez"H
The book
Extraordinary Insights

For Dedication Opportunities (which can be given from Maiseer money)—L'Ilui Nishmas, in memory of a loved one, L'Refuah Shleima, Hatzlacha, or for any reason, in addition to sharing in the merit of the Torah learned by each reader—please send an email to
yalt3285@gmail.com.
Donations can also be given via credit card by clicking "Donate" at <https://thechesedfund.com/fascinatinginsights/extraordinaryinsights>. Any amount is welcome.