



SAGE ADVICE

ORCHOS TZADDIKIM

THE WAYS OF THE RIGHTEOUS

Author: Unknown

Written: 1430

Original Title: *Sefer Hamiddot*
("The Book of Traits")



🌀 *Orchos Tzaddikim* is a book of *musar*.

🌀 Each character trait is referred to as a 'gate'. The 28 gates in *Orchos Tzaddikim* include:

- The Gate of **Haughtiness**
- The Gate of **Humility**
- The Gate of **Shame**
- The Gate of **Arrogance**
- The Gate of **Love**
- The Gate of **Hatred**
- The Gate of **Mercy**
- The Gate of **Cruelty**
- The Gate of **Happiness**
- The Gate of **Worry**
- The Gate of **Regret**
- The Gate of **Anger**
- The Gate of **Acceptance**
- The Gate of **Envy**
- The Gate of **Eagerness**
- The Gate of **Laziness**
- The Gate of **Generosity**
- The Gate of **Miserliness**
- The Gate of **Remembrance**
- The Gate of **Forgetfulness**
- The Gate of **Silence**
- The Gate of **Falsehood**
- The Gate of **Truth**
- The Gate of **Flattery**
- The Gate of **Slander**
- The Gate of **Repentance**
- The Gate of **Torah**
- The Gate of **Fear of Heaven**

**Excerpt from the Introduction
of *Orchos Tzaddikim* :**

There are traits that must be exhibited often, and there are traits which must be exhibited sparingly. This is analogous to someone cooking a dish and needing vegetables and meat, water, salt, and pepper. He must use all of these ingredients by measure, a little of one, a lot of the other. If he limits the meat, the dish will be too thin. If he is over-generous with salt, it will be too salty to eat... The same is true of character traits. There are those which must be adopted in a large measure, such as humility, shame and the like, and those which must be adopted only sparingly, such as pride, audacity and harshness. Therefore, a man must weigh all of his traits on the balance scale of understanding to use each trait in its proper amount.

REFERENCES

Proverbs 1:1-3 The proverbs of Solomon, son of David, king of Israel: To know wisdom and **musar**, to understand words of insight, to receive **musar** in wise dealing, in righteousness, justice, and equity.

Proverbs 1:7-8 The fear of Adonai is the beginning of knowledge. Fools despise wisdom and **musar**. Hear, my son, your father's **musar**, and forsake not your mother's teaching.

Proverbs 5:12, 23 And you will say, "How I hated **musar** and my heart despised reproof!" ... He will die for lack of **musar** and because of his great folly he is led astray.

Proverbs 6:23 For the commandment is a lamp and the Torah a light, and the reproofs of **musar** are the way of life.

Proverbs 12:1 Whoever loves **musar** loves knowledge, but he who hates reproof is stupid.