

of the despicable trait of envy!"

Rav Chaim was asked how a person can determine the difference between his actual needs and unnecessary luxuries. "What is the question," Rav Chaim immediately responded, "the answer is a clear *Mishnah Berurah* in *siman* 156!"

The *Mishnah Berurah* there (s.k. 2) writes: "The main thing is that a person should carefully introspect to determine what is truly necessary, that he cannot be without. Only then will he be able to ensure that his occupation be secondary and his Torah study primary."

In *Shaar HaTziyun* (#3), he explains further: "In order that his [evil] inclination not fool him [into thinking that more things are 'absolute necessities'], let him think deeply: If he would obligate himself to feed and clothe his friend according to his own station, what would he say then — which things would he consider to be necessities ..."

