

The educational teaching methods in Jewish studies at yeshiva religious academies and universities, the differences – advantages and preferences

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Abstract

The educational teaching method in Jewish studies is normally utilized at Orthodox yeshiva religious academies and less frequently at universities and colleges that teach Jewish studies. There is a considerable difference between the educational teaching methods at these two types of institution, the Orthodox and the academic. I shall note here one representative distinction between the two methods.

The Orthodox teaching method combines the text studied with its internalization in the student's ethics. The basic principle of this method is in perceiving the educational instruction as located fundamentally above history, unaffected by external foreign influences.

In contrast to this method, the academic educational teaching method examines the text objectively and has no interest in the student's identity and ethics. The foundation underlying this scientific educational instruction resembles the systematic and rapid instruction customary in all the different disciplines taught at universities.

In this paper I shall present additional examples to the differences between these two educational teaching methods, comparing them and pointing out their similarities and dissimilarities. I shall note the strengths and shortcomings of each of these two methods and, accordingly, endeavor to determine the necessary and preferable conclusion regarding one of these two methods.

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