PIRQE ABOT: What does it mean?

Pirqe Abot o **Massekhet** Abot is the ninth treatise of The Order of "Damages" (Seder Neziqin), the section of the Mishna which deals with civil law (damages, torts, compensation, etc.). In English is know as the "Chapters of the Fathers", and has also been termed **Mishnat hasidim,** "Instruction for the Pious", because of the Rabbinic saying (Baba Kamma, 30a.) **"He who wishes to be pious, let him practice the teachings of Abot".**
On account of the nature of its content, it is generally designated in English as the **"Ethics of the Fathers".**
The use of the word Abot (=fathers), in the title, is of very ancient date. There are various explanations for it. **Samuel de Uceda,** in his collective commentary Midrash Shemuel, says that as this tractate of the Mishnah contains **advice and good counsel**, which, for the most part, come from a parent, the Rabbis mentioned in it **adopt the role of "fathers,"** and are therefore so designated. Additionally, this treatise is the basis of all subsequent ethical and moral teachings and doctrines, and the Rabbis are, in consequence, the "fathers" **or prototypes** of all ethical teachers and moralists that will come after them.
The Rabbis of Abot are also the **"fathers" or "ancestors of Rabbinic Judaism"** also known as CHAZAL. "Abot" is used here as it is used in the Hebrew expression abot ha-olam the "fathers of the world," which designate **the most distinguished teachers,** which is a true characterization of the Rabbis of Abot
For an English translation of Pirqe Abot online click here: