

My Thoughts on Tish'a B'Av

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My mind has been pondering this day and its link to our addiction.

Billum said to Balak "let me show you what will happen in the end of days..." and shortly after, the Moabite women were sent into the Jewish camp.

We are now living in the end of days and those women are prancing about freely in our camp, tempting us to worship their baal peor at the computer or tv screen.

I've heard two seemingly contradictory statements. One opinion is that the 3rd Beis Hamikdash descends from heaven ready built while another says that we build it.

I now see that there is no contradiction there.

Rabbosai, I think that we are busy building the Beis Hamikdash in heaven with our efforts here, and when it's complete, it will descend.

Every one of us that has a victory over his temptation is placing a brick in the temple.

The bricks we are using are not small – it is only with each other's help that we are able to secure them in place.

The fast day itself: this fast has tremendous power to convert all the negative energy we have created into positive energy, like Billum's curses were turned into blessings. We can pull sparks of holiness out of the darkness. We are not just curing our own disease, we are the front line in a spiritual war.

Before we entered the Holy Land, a thousand men from each tribe went to do battle, with Pinchas up front. That's US.

Chazak! And may you have a meaningful fast.

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