yechida's reflections
Posted by yechidah - 29 Jun 2009 19:47

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(any questions , insights & suggestions about this thread,feel free to email me at taryaga@gmail.com)

There are many reasons we need to be where we are and who we are,most are unknown.Why do we even have to be in a situation or have in our soul so much darkness and a pull toward self-destructing negative behaviors?

I saw once an amazing thought in a sefer.Moshe Rabeinu came from a union that after the Torah was given would have deemed him a mamzer(parents being an aunt & nephew).He could not boast of his lineage.This is one reason that let him be the greatest Anov that ever lived.

We who have to deal with the stuff that's in us that we would rather not have in the first place-this pain and shame over the course of time -makes us realize that even when we b'ezras Hashem pull out of the addictions-we will never look at another Yid that is struggling with this in a negative way

We catch a Yid looking where he shouldn't be looking and our hearts are full of compassion.We will daven for him,treat him with respect,gently try to get him out of it.We would never disgrace him-not even in our hearts-because we were there.We know what it's like.In our eyes he is a potential tzaddik.

This is surely one reason Hashem gave us this urge towards baseness with all it's shades of ugliness.Yes you are special-like every Yid is-but never ever judge harshly My son or daughter that is struggling-because I love him or her - he or she is part of Klall Yisroel.Just as indispensible as you are.

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Re: yechida's reflections
Posted by yechidah - 15 Sep 2020 13:46

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“As to conforming outwardly and living your own life inwardly, I do not think much of that.”

? Henry David Thoreau

(each soul has it own unique mission in life. we may all have the same Torah & the same mitzvos, but my shabbos is unique to me, & your shabbos is unique to you, we all experience our connection to Hashem & the world very differently in accordance to each individual soul)

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Re: yechida's reflections
Posted by yechidah - 18 Sep 2020 12:07

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Dear Brothers & Sisters,

May Hashem bless you all with a wonderful upcoming year filled with healing & blessing for each & every one of you.

As I saw this powerful quote (from the book "Towards a Meaningful Life" by Simon Jacobson"

"Birth is God telling you that you matter"

Rosh Hashana-the Day of Creation of Man affirms this truth to every single person who reads this. That there are no coincidences in life, & there is no coincidences in each & every one of your personal lives.

Hashem gives each one of you life, with your own God -given gifts so as to use them to bring light to yourself & to the world. Your flaws are not a coincidence either -it is meant to be channeled & transformed into being a great source of light & even comfort over time

It has been a difficult year-both for our people & for the world at large- a certain fear, loss of life & loss of parnassah & overall tension

Yet, we can transcend & thrive & grow-& look to Hashem for a brighter & better year for all of us- Amen!!

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Re: yechida's reflections
Posted by yechidah - 23 Sep 2020 13:05

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Dear Friends,

it is known that Yom Kippur does not forgive for sins between man & his fellow man

Rather, requesting forgiveness, & correcting the wrong-that is how you obtain forgiveness

This can be very difficult to do in many cases, Ideally, it's best to overcome your fear or resistance & reach out to the person you have wronged

However, every person here needs to know , **that even if you have not yet mustered the courage to do what is required, there is still ALOT you can do to get yourself on this path, so that when yom kippur comes , the judgements are mitigated & softened even if full forgiveness wasn't yet obtained.** & Hashem will be merciful & allow you the time to muster the courage to do what needs to be done

1) **Pray to Hashem & tell Him** " I know I am obligated to ask forgiveness from so & so, but I am scared & feel intimated or ashamed. Please help me overcome this. & in the meantime, please help me remove from my heart any resentment towards this person & please help soften his heart so that he can forgive me as well"

2) At the very least, you commit to treat this other person with a greater degree or respect in thought , speech & action **from the present moment onward.** even if you can't find he courage to actually ask forgiveness, you can still speak more in a more civil way, try your best to give this person the benefit of the doubt & to wish him well. & whatever negative behaviors you exhibited toward this person, do what you can to stop those behaviors-this way, **even if you haven't corrected the past-you are correcting the present & the future-& this is very beloved by Hashem despite the fact that He really wants you to correct the past as well**

3) It's a mistake to think in terms of pure black & white thinking. Do **NOT** assume that just because you haven't (yet) complied with the halacha, that means that every effort toward that goal is worthless. This is **NOT** true!! H**ashem treasures every effort. & His disappointment of not trying at all is much harsher & worse than His disappointment when you are trying as best as you can but are falling short!!** The reverse his true. He may be disappointed that you didn't fully do what you were suppose to do , but He also treasures every effort you make towards that goal -even if right now you fell short. & this effort alone sweetens harsh judgements & brings light to yourself & to the world

4) This is such a crucial aspect in life that it cannot be overlooked. when you feel discouraged because you know you don't (yet) have the strength to correct a wrong, you DONT go the opposite way, throw up your hands & give up in despair. NO!! **instead, you take those baby steps TOWARDS the goal , because every baby step is beloved by Hashem**

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Re: yechida's reflections
Posted by cordnoy - 23 Sep 2020 13:36

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yechidah wrote on 23 Sep 2020 13:05**:**

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Thank you, I think the above is true, but it is also a way of justifyin' doin' the wrong thing. The reason we need to justify this is because many of us, myself included big time, don't wanna take that all important step approachin' the people we wronged. The reason it is so difficult to do is because it is the absolute correct thing to do. Justifyin' this beforehand is kinda givin' up beforehand, which I do, so now I feel good about not takin' that ultimate sacrifice and mannin' up. God wants us to demonstrate that broken heart; tellin' ourselves that we will be better and won't slander the other fellow is not gonna change us. It's feel-good Judaism, it's the one I choose, but I don't advocate for it.

After this rant, maybe I'll even approach someone, doubt it though.

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Re: yechida's reflections
Posted by yechidah - 23 Sep 2020 15:14

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I respectfully disagree

its true that just wanting to correct something is merely wishful thinking that wont accomplish anything

but positive thoughts, words & actions in the present & future can get a person to gain the courage to finally do what they need to do.

& none of these positive acts can be neglected-even if the primary obligation has not yet been fulfilled

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Re: yechida's reflections
Posted by higher - 24 Sep 2020 00:35

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encore!

dont let the perfect be the enemy of the good.

as long as the mindset is working towards eventual full mechila, way to go.

think about teshuva - are we fully there? is yom kippur a joke?

this is the great rabbi salanters novel approach - that a small act **that is putting one on the path towards the right direction is teshuva. (**its worth it to analyze the letter in or yisroel where he discusses this at length.)

otherwise we are a bunch of clowns fooling ourselves when it comes to azivas hacheit. we aint just changing over a day bro - dont be silly! but we are still doing teshuva. doing. not done. but doing. and there is kaparah on that - as the above holy rabbi learns. i do wonder if there is any kaparah solely regarding the bein adam lachaveiro aspect though. what yechida is saying sounds healthy and cleansing only regarding bein adam lamakom.

not sure if anything i said makes sense or even sounds good.

a good sweet year to all!

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Re: yechida's reflections
Posted by yechidah - 24 Sep 2020 02:06

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bli neder i will try to find it but rav kook discusses how this works with bein adam lechaveiro as well

no one (not rav kook either) is saying that cv we replace what the chazal requires us to do, until there is full mechilah or the return of the theft ect, then full forgiveness is not attained yet

you have to call a spade a spade

but its clear that steps towards is can affect great mercy from Hashem so that at the end He will help you gain the strength & have the ability to make the full correction

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Re: yechida's reflections
Posted by sleepy - 24 Sep 2020 05:37

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yechidah wrote on 04 Sep 2020 13:28**:**

“To be awake is to be alive. I have never yet met a man who was quite awake.”

? Henry David Thoreau

hey, why do i find that quote offensive?

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Re: yechida's reflections
Posted by wilnevergiveup - 24 Sep 2020 06:39

I remember reading in Rav Shimshon Pincus's sefer on yamim noraim that during aseres yimei teshuva (Elul also, I don't remember exactly) if we do a real azivas hacheit as well as proper teshuva then there is a special siyata dishmaya that will enable you to recieve a proper mechila to. Either the person will be mochel without you asking or other circumstances will enable you to ask for forgiveness.

I don't think this is meant to replace asking for forgiveness, rather to help us not be overwhelmed by the thought, and knowing that if we change ourselves even if our teshuva is not complete, it's still worth a lot, as Yechidah is pointing out (I think).

sleepy

I remember a discussion whether it's best not to tell someone about something that they may not know about, when asking mechilah because this might cause them even more pain. I know this does not apply when we wronged someone to their face (or perhaps it does if we bring to the surface something they may have somewhat forgotten about) but many times this is not the case.

Is this something you can explain practically?

Thanks

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Re: yechida's reflections
Posted by yechidah - 24 Sep 2020 09:50

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let say you have a coworker that you have treated in a rotten way until now

& you at this point cannot muster the courage to ask mechila yet or bring it up

Don't say that just because I am not ready-I will do nothing

Instead, at your own pace, start talking to this coworker in a better way, treating him with more respect, & not exhibit your past negative behaviors towards him, eventually , you will have the courage to say kind & nice things to him. & then more eventually, you may have the courage to tell him that your sorry you have mistreated him in the past

my main point is that most people will say-I cant do it-so ill do nothing

so you continue the coldness & the silent treatment with this coworker because you don't have the courage to do what the Torah is requiring of you

but that is the wrong approach. Yes, its true, right now you have not done yet what you are required to so. no one is denying that, But at the same time, doing what I describe will indeed over 95% of the time cause your coworker to soften his heart towards you, He may not fully trust or forgive you for hurting him, but he will recognize the change & the antagonism will diminish significantly& that has great value

this not be a perfect analogy, but in Tanach , you see often a mention of how at some periods the Jews were able to remove idolatry from their midst but they still were unable to abolish the private Bamah's (private altars) . Now, fixing one wrong thing doesn't justify you not fixing another wrong thing, But nevertheless, it is clear that Hashem was more please & showed greater compassion towards His People when they threw out idolatry-even though they were still wrong for not allowing the Beis Hamidash being the only place for sacrifices

you can find if you look countless examples of this principle

& it is a shame that people are discouraged from taking those very healthy first steps just because they cant currently do things 100% correctly

every baby step toward doing the right thing is very precious to Hashem

& there is no reason that should not apply to interpersonal relationships as well

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Re: yechida's reflections
Posted by yechidah - 25 Sep 2020 09:53

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I respect very much cords perspective (respectfully disagree is meant literally. i may disagree but I certainly have deep respect for the perspective as a valid one)

What i think is boils down to is that a person has to know himself or herself

if such thinking leads to a cop-out-then I understand why this logic shouldn't be used

however , with many people , it it simply a healthy way to develop the courage to do what is right when at the moment that courage is lacking,

i guess the criteria would be 1) that you DO have a clear cut intention & goal to correct the situation 2) you DO at the very least that baby step but real & TANGIBLE positive act that will ultimately lead to that goal

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Re: yechida's reflections
Posted by yechidah - 07 Oct 2020 14:32

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Knowing your own darkness is the best method for dealing with the darkness of other people. (Carl Jung)

(This does not mean that you embrace & indulge in your own darkness. but what this means is that you recognize this darkness, be humble about it, try to transform it into light-& it is meant also to be used to compassionate & understanding toward other people that are dealing with such darkness & to try to help them)

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Re: yechida's reflections
Posted by yechidah - 09 Oct 2020 15:10

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Summary of Practical Torah Thoughts

1) **we are "One" people**. Nevertheless, in the practical world down here on earth, there are specific souls connected to specific Tzaddikim & that is why some are drawn to this tzaddik & some to another tzaddik. **Its important to ask Hashem to give each & every one of you the opportunity to connect with a true Tzaddik & mentor that can relate to your specific soul to guide you**

2) **Yissachar's Avoda is Torah & Tefillah in a very revealed way,** & this runs the risk of it being cooled off or not being sincere. **While Zevulun's Avoda is a concealed one-maintaining emunah in the heart as he conducts his business with the world.** This is an

inner spark that cannot be cooled off.

3) While humility is a beautiful trait, **one also needs a strong dose of self confidence & spiritual elevation** , taking healthy pride in the service of Hashem

4)**Every Jew gains strength by his fellow Jew giving him encouragement & strength.** Every Jew is sent to this world to give encouragement to his fellow Jew

5)see inside the mashal of the baal shem tov. The king did not desire that beautiful bird for its own sake-**but rather the king desired how each of his subjects worked together as One to obtain this goal.**

6)when asking Hashem for Parnassah-a**sk Him this so that you can serve Hashem with peace of mind, to honor Shabbos properly, to pay tuition for the chinuch of your children, for the sake of sholom bayis, to daven & learn better ect**

7)**When asking for better physical intimacy with your wife**-ask Him this so that you should have "Pas Besalo" , to motivate you to be a better husband & a better Oved Hashem especially in regards to guarding yourself from immorality so that a good healthy sex life with your own wife will get you to be happy with your lot & never be tempted to stray & always to be loyal to her

8)**Every Jew is precious in they eyes of Hashem-**& so every Jew should be precious in your own eyes

9)**Every creation , every created being has a purpose-& we should respect every creation because of that-& all point to their Creator!!**

10) Our shorter life spans (as opposed to the hundreds of years of life to the first 20 generations) i**s to teach us to value the preciousness of life & to appreciate every moment** & serve Hashem in this gifted time to the best of our ability.

guardyoureyes.com/media/kunena/attachments/2149/torah.pdf

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Re: yechida's reflections
Posted by yechidah - 11 Nov 2020 15:17

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When one looks truly at the good side of everyone, others come to love him very naturally, and he does not need even a speck of flattery.

Abraham Isaac Kook

(looking in truth to the pure & good aspect of another-& focusing on it-& building upon it-that is not false flattery-it is truth that leads to great spiritual growth.)

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Re: yechida's reflections
Posted by yechidah - 16 Nov 2020 14:57

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yesterday someone in shul told me the following (in regards to people who beat themselves up over mistakes in their past)

"Don't allow your past to ruin your future"

"Instead, work towards bringing light into your future to correct your past"

This is not easy at times-especially when you are haunted by your poor choices in the past. But they key here is to strengthen yourself, forgive yourself, & move forward. Don't allow the past to sabotage your present & future

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