

yechida's reflections

Posted by yechidah - 29 Jun 2009 19:47

(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 indispensable as you are.

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Re: yechida's reflections

Posted by 7yipol - 29 Oct 2009 12:55

I think this poem on Uri's thread agrees with your deep insight.

rehab-my-site.com/guardureyes/forum/index.php?topic=643.msg26127#msg26127

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Re: yechida's reflections

Posted by yechidah - 29 Oct 2009 13:32

that's a truely beautiful poem from Uri

and it's true that there are times that when you fall, you think you will never get up again

but somehow you do

Momeh Rochel is lifting her child up

whispering encouraging words to him

giving him the strength to carry on and forge ahead

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Re: yechida's reflections

Posted by 7yipol - 29 Oct 2009 13:38

Uri's thread, 7ups post!

Glad you liked it

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Re: yechida's reflections

Posted by kutan - 29 Oct 2009 14:00

Shkoyach, Yechida, for your last post.

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Re: yechida's reflections

Posted by habib613 - 29 Oct 2009 14:30

:'(:'(:'(

yechida that was beautiful

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Re: yechida's reflections

Posted by letakain - 29 Oct 2009 14:55

i really related to that so well, yechida

ouch :'(

i've felt like that a lot.

that voice whispering to me "You ----, you.... how DARE even utter a single letter of the aleph
beis to Hashem!"

you know why. cuz i want to. i want to talk to Hashem and be close to him. and i'm not gonna
stop cuz of what i did.

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Re: yechida's reflections

Posted by yechidah - 30 Oct 2009 13:12

Dear friends,

In case after that torah on "cheshvan" you may say "you think everyone has a certain talent or specialness? well, some people have nothing. no talent. no specialness. how do you love someone like that?

Firstly, suspect you did not look hard enough.

And if you did look hard "enough" and saw nothing----love them anyway

It's interesting that in this sefer of Nechama Greisman ztl there is no Torah that discusses the details of Parshas Lech Lecho

Instead there is this note as an introduction "Although this shiur was not directly about Parshas Lech Lecha, it nevertheless relates to the first great mekarev- "Avraham Avinu"

Pirkei Avos talks about Aharon being mekarev "habriyos" which is a strange term because it refers to people who have no other (revealed) virtue other than the fact that

G-d created them.

To love even those people whom one cannot find any good reason to love

To love them because they are Jews and have a Jewish soul, because they are part of you, real brothers and sisters

She then brings a story that she says “had a profound impact of life and on my perception of things”

“It happened about 20 years ago when I was in a certain woman’s yeshiva for a summer program. There were about 100 women there that summer and among them one girl who had real problems.”

“She was kind of a nebbich. A nebbich is someone who never seems to make it, a failure. The girl was not very popular nor very intelligent. Nobody really went out of the way to be friendly toward her because she really such an interesting person. She remained pretty much on the sidelines and was more or less ignored.. She often used to sleep late and come late to classes. She wasn’t really part of the Yeshiva experience.”

“One morning she did not show up for class, which was nothing new. But one of the girls said to her roommate “Would you go please see where she is, wake her up and tell her to come to class?”

“This was despite the fact that she would sit in the back and never ask questions and never participate”

“The messenger came back and said “She’s sleeping and I can’t get her up”

“They went back to try to wake her up”

“We found out later she had taken an overdose of sleeping pills and had also slashed her wrists.”

“It was undiluted Hashgacha Peratis, Divine Providence that they went back to check up on her, because when they brought her to the hospital and pumped her stomach and resuscitated her, the doctors said if she would have been left for another hour, she might have been brain

dead or beyond revival”

The first reaction was shock.

How could this happen here-such a makom torah!!!

Wonderful place!!!

Wonderful people!!!

The second reaction was shame.

Yesterday, at lunch, I sat with my back to her

the other day she may have asked me something and I didn't respond

It was Erev Shabbos, Friday morning when this happened.

Right before candle-lighting she was brought back

There was a heavy feeling in the place because of what had happened.

The Rabbi spoke and One thing he said everybody remembered

He said what had happened ,happened to all of us.

Although it happened to that girl, we were all involved had brought us all to
the same
place at the same time

Hashem was obviously giving us all a message-that we are very selective with the people
we are nice are to.

IN OTHER WORDS, WE ARE VERY PIOUS AND NOBLE BUT ALWAYS
SELECTIVE

We invite interesting and important people to our Shabbos table

Likeable and personable people

And then she hits it on the nail when she says this.

(As "Minko" on 66 WFAN would say at an Army Broadcast "BINGO!!")

When the Torah was given at Sinai, do you think it was given only for beautiful people?

Do you think there was a special line for nice people and in the back is where all the
nebbichs stood?

No, the Torah was given to all Jews, no matter what kind of personality they have, no matter what kind of troubles they have, no matter what kind of IQ they have

The Torah is part of every single Jew until the end of time.

This is what mekarvon es “habriyos” mean.

And though she does not talk about Avraham Avinu, he was this way with people.

He didn't hang around Reb “Shem ben Noach” all day long

He dealt with all kinds of people.

None of this “Smart people to the East Door, Dumb ones to the West, Beautiful Ones to the North, Ugly Ones to the South, and yes that pretty girl there gets the tongue of the 3rd cow that tastes good with mustard”

He treated them all with equal dignity and respect.

Just as the Torah was given to all of us.

And there is a part of Torah in every Yid.

Hashem put it there.

We must look and find it

Seek and you shall find

Green Esther is a beautiful Queen

Sick Pale Miriam is a Sparkling Princess

We are blind.

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Re: yechida's reflections

Posted by yechidah - 30 Oct 2009 14:17

May Hashem heal all of precious Yidin that need a Refuah Shlaimah

Never forget the pain of the ill among us

And yet be B'Simcha as well

A Smile can do wonders

At the Cancer Clinic by Ted Koozer

She is being helped toward the open door
that leads to the examining rooms
by two young women I take to be her sisters.
Each bends to the weight of an arm
and steps with the straight, tough bearing
of courage. At what must seem to be
a great distance, a nurse holds the door,
smiling and calling encouragement.
How patient she is in the crisp white sails
of her clothes. The sick woman
peers from under her funny knit cap
to watch each foot swing scuffing forward
and take its turn under her weight.
There is no restlessness or impatience
or anger anywhere in sight. Grace
fills the clean mold of this moment
and all the shuffling magazines grow still

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Re: yechida's reflections
Posted by Noorah BAmram - 01 Nov 2009 03:20

Yechida, just read some of your recent posts and was very touched by them!

Chazak CHAZAK!!!

Noorah

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Re: yechida's reflections

Posted by yechidah - 02 Nov 2009 13:23

thank you Noora

and I admit the next one will be unusual

but please be patient in reading it because it has a profound concept there

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Re: yechida's reflections

Posted by yechidah - 02 Nov 2009 14:06

The Voice that kills/The Voice that heals (Part 3)-the Case of X

At certain points in my life I read many mystery books including those old Hardy Boys (and shhhh, some Nancy Drew who by the way had a higher IQ than both Frank and Joe combined),and later the Complete Works of Sherlock Holmes, and well as almost all the books written by Agatha Cristie.

This Agatha Cristie had a simple clear style of writing yet it was a writing of a genius.

Her book "Curtain" is the greatest of her greats, competing only with perhaps "And then there were none"

This book was written in the 1940's, put in a vault, and not published until the 1970's after her death.

She had created a character Hercule Poirot a Belgian detective and this was his last case as an old infirm man but with a brain that was as sharp as ever.

He goes with his friend who had helped him with a lot of his cases, a man called Hastings

They go to this Hotel called "Styles Court" where many years ago Hercules Poirot with his friend Hastings solves their first case.

They are back, years and years later, the last case of Hercule Poirot

There is a evil deadly demented murderer in Hotel Styles.

Poirot gives Hasting 5 newspaper clippings

5 murders

The motive seemed to be clear and the murder suspect seems to be the clear culprit-5 different murderers—yet Poirot tells Hasting this

"I intend, Hastings, to be very careful in what I say. Let me put it this way. There is a certain

person---X. In none of these cases did X (apparently) have any motive in doing away with the victim. In one case as far as I have been able to find out,X was actually two hundred miles away when the crime was committed, Nevertheless, I will tell you this. X was on intimate terms with Etherton (case 1),X lived for a time in the same village as Riggs(case 2)X was acquainted with Mrs Bradley (case 3),I have a picture of X and Freda Clay walking together on the street(case 4) ,and X was near the house when old Matthew Litchfield died(case 5)

X is in this house.

A murder will be committed here

Poirot knows the identity of X

But he will not tell Hastings who X is

“Why not’?

Because you are the same old Hastings. A speaking open face.staring at X with your mouth wide open. No we must be very incognito, secretive and when we pounce, we pounce

I will not go through the whole book. Basically there are murders and attempted murders and you really don't know what in the world is going. Hastings himself almost kills a creep who is chasing after his daughter

After I knew the solution and read the book again I saw how ingenious the whole book was

The final victim is a guy Norton who is shot in the head.

The coroner rules it self inflicted

The Poirot himself dies, apparently from natural causes

So you are at the end of this book, X is a murderer, we have no idea who he is, Poirot dies.

Did X kill Poirot?

Who is X?

You are at almost the very end of the book and you have no idea

Poirot had left Hastings a box with 2 clues

1-the play Othello by Shakspeare

2-the play "John Ferguson" by St John Ervine with the marker at the third act.

Then months later Poirot's lawyer sends documents to Hastings

Bottom line this Norton who was shot in the head was X

Who killed Norton who was X?

Hercule Poirot

Because X would never be caught and held accountable by the law

So Poirot who preserved life all his career, was forced to take one at the end of his life.

Now mr yechida realizes that this is a book of fiction

But there are elements that are true so I present it here.

This final revelation from Poirot is addressed to Hastings

“ You complained that I was unfair in my presentation of this case. I withheld from you knowledge that I had myself. That is to say,I refused to tell you the identity of X. That is quite true. I had to do so—though not for the reasons that I advanced. You will see the reason presently.

“And now let us examine this matter of X.I showed you the resume of various cases.

I pointed out to you that in each separate case it seemed quite clear that the person accused, or suspected, had actually committed the crime in question, that there was no “alternate” solution.

I then proceeded to the second important fact-that in each case X had been either on the scene or closely involved.

You then jumped to a deduction that was, paradoxically, both true and false.

You said that X had committed all these murders

But, my friend, the circumstances were such that in each case (or very nearly) only the accused could have done the crime. On the other hand, if so, how account for X?....So we get the curious result that we have here a case of catalysis—a reaction between two substances that takes place only in the presence of a third substance, that third substance apparently taking no part in the reaction and remaining unchanged. That is the position.

I means that where X was present, crimes took place—but X did not actively take part in these crimes

An extraordinary, an abnormal situation!! And I saw that I had come across at last, at the end of my career, the perfect criminal, the criminal had invented such a technique that he **COULD NEVER BE CONVICTED OF CRIME.**

It is amazing but not new. There were parallels. And here comes in the first of the “clues” I left you.

The play of Othello

For there, magnificently delineated we have the original of X

(truth is, my friends, we know of X in Tanach. Doeg HoAdomi. according to the Midrash ,he hated Dovid, and praised Dovid to Shaul in a way that would put hatred of Dovid in Shaul's heart. But on the surface it seemed that he was making innocent and even kind comments. We would never know from the words what poison was placed there.

his goes beyond the typical loshon horah because it is much more subtle,very hard to detect and very deadly)

Iago is the perfect murderer.

The deaths of Desdemona, of Cassio—indeed of Othello himself—are all Iago's crimes, planned

by him, carried out by him. And "he" remains "outside" the circle, untouched by suspicion-or could have done so....

Yes, there is there the perfection of the art of murder. Not even a word of Direct suggestion. He is always holding others back from violence, refuting with horror suspicions that have not been entertained until he mentions them.

And the same technique is seen in the brilliant third act of John Ferguson.

Every person may have the desire to hurt or kill someone. But you do not do it...

So the art of X is this

Not to suggest the desire, but to break down the normal decent resistance.

It was an art perfected by long practice. X knew the exact word, the exact phrase, the intonation even to suggest and to bring cumulative pressure on a weak spot!!

This is done without the victim suspecting.

It was not hypnotism.-hypnotism would not be successful.

It was something more insidious, more deadly.

IT WAS A MARSHALLING OF THE FORCES OF A HUMAN BEING TO WIDEN A BREACH INSTEAD OF REPAIRING IT.

Your first reaction was a mild suspicion of Norton.

And you are quite right. Norton was the man. You had no reason for your belief except the perfectly sound if not halfhearted suggestion that he was insignificant. There I think you came very close to the truth.

He was the only son of a masterful and bossy woman..slightly lame..did not participate in sports at school.

I could imagine that he began to discover quite young his own power for influencing people. He is a good listener (here yechida adds that even the great potential chesed of truly listening must be used for the right reasons to help, not to destroy) he has a quiet, sympathetic personality. People liked him without ,at the same time noticing him too much. He resented this—and then made use of this. He discovered how ridiculously easy it was, by using the correct words, and supplying the correct stimuli, to influence his fellow creatures.(yechida adds that he has seen the influencing power of mechanchim that misuse their power and ability to literally destroy young boys and girl under their care and influence, some using their power of influence in a subtle way)The only thing necessary was to understand them—to penetrate their thoughts, their secret reactions and wishes

Can you realize, Hastings, that such a discovery might feed a sense of power ?Here he was Stephen Norton, whom everyone liked and despised—and he could make people do things they didn't want to do ---or (mark this) thought they did not want to do

I can visualize him developing this hobby of his...

Yes, his hobby grows and grows until it becomes a passion, a necessity!!

Norton, the gentle-natured loving man, was a secret sadist.He was an addict of pain ,of mental torture

I will stop here, but he continues to describe how he tracked those 5 victims in those 5 cases and how Norton tracked the victims in this hotel as he knew one of the couples there. Poirot senses the danger so he comes there and at the end kills Norton himself. When you read the book a second time, you see what Norton said and how he acted in his “insignificant” way and you see clearly his art of brilliant manipulation.

Yechida is a little dense and not always too sharp but he had spotted in some of his rebbis and teachers as well as some public speakers as well as several coworkers and supervisors over the years being like this Norton guy but not quite pulling it off .

And then you have true gedolim that use this gift in a very positive way.

For example Hillel was like an Anti X.

And I tried this, being like X, but in the opposite and reverse, to build instead of destroy.

A couple came to my house for Shabbos. It was clear that the wife did not really respect the husband much. Not fighting or anything like that but she didn't think too much of him at that point.is critical of him. they came to us several times. What do I do. When he walks in the door I give him the biggest smile and a big Shalom Aleichem, I listen to everything he says over Shabbos,I stand up when he comes in the room. I say “very good point you got there” “you handled that correctly” and none of this was phony or acting on my part. I actually found good points in him that I purposely brought out in the open

His wife sees this. How me and my wife and my kids are listening to him(and I tell my kids what an interesting good guy he is).and you see at least for a short while how this guy's wife is looking at her husband in a different and more positive light.

Not once did I tell the wife openly “see you have here a special husband”. But that is exactly what I “told” her. She just had no idea that when I was talking to her husband I was actually talking to her.(which, by the way is perfectly permissible, even recommended)

Be X in the reverse.

Build quietly what has been breached.

Or make the bond stronger than it is.

The Malochim did this Anti-X thing to Avrohom Avinu.

Innocently and "Naively" asking a simple plain mundane question

"Where is Sarah your wife?" (yes, Sarah a beautiful name, she is YOUR wife)

Avrohom answers "She is in the tent"(you know I always knew this, but now that these guests brought it up it is so clear to me. She is so special, Doing all this chessed in her quiet way, in her tent, chesed with modesty ,a true tzenuah, I really love her)

And when Avrohom is not looking. Rafael, Michoel,and Gavriel give each other a HIGH FIVE and slap each other on the back and say "YESSSS!!IT WORKED!!"

And Avrohom as brilliant as he was, may have not known, may not have realized that the innocent question addressed to him, had behind it, a beautiful poetic powerful that quietly built the connection that tied this great couple together. The couple we all came from.

And here is another thing.

It may be true that during that time that I read "Curtain" by Agatha Christie I should have learned some Chumash or Gemorah.

But now that I did read "Curtain", I might as well use it the right way.

Become an Anti X.

And a built a beautiful structure that is unseen by almost everyone but absolutely REAL

Upstairs the next stone is being placed and fitted in that Third Bais Hamikdosh that will come down to us soon.

But the world is clueless.

They do not know what great thing we have just done.

The great thing you just did when you turned away from you-know-what.

Anti X.

Influencing the world, infusing it with kedushah and love and healing.

But the world is clueless.

But Hashem whispers from within your heart

The world may not know what you just did for Me

But I know

Thank you

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Re: yechida's reflections

Posted by habib613 - 02 Nov 2009 14:52

wow. :O

i read that book like 8 years ago.

wow.

i don't know how you do it, R' Yechida, but you just made me see the world in a whole new light.

Thank you.

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Re: yechida's reflections

Posted by letakain - 02 Nov 2009 16:42

cool post, yechida! never read those books, but awesome concept!

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Re: yechida's reflections

Posted by 7yipol - 03 Nov 2009 13:04

The more I get to know this YECHIDA, the more in awe I am.

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