

From tragedy to redemption

Posted by Hashivalisesonyishecho - 08 Jan 2015 10:00

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I am a middle aged person, highly talented, but leider unaccomplished. I seem to have some strengths but not the strength and the resolve to do what it takes to use my talents to be what I can be. I have had lot's of tzaros in my life which have gotten the better of me and eventually removed me from my learning and my general Ruchnius success. I was not omed benisoyon. I am ashamed of myself. On the outside I still seem like a basically Choshever person but nobody knows what I really am. When I was a Bochur and a young yungerman, everybody was sure I would turn out to be one of the Gedolim. That hasn't happened(yet). I would never tell anyone of my worst failings, but this failing of me not succeeding to fulfill my potential is known. I guess people may have long ago forgotten what was supposed to become of me but looking at me now they see nothing but an empty wasted soul. I haven't forgotten the original plan and somewhere deep down I still hope Hashem will give me back my neshama. My Boosha is maybe a good thing in a way because it keeps things from getting more out of hand. But it makes it impossible for me to get the support and encouragement that might help me do what I should. Maybe I could get the support here. I am middle aged but my mind knows that it isn't too late. I need my heart to know it too.

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Re: From tragedy to redemption

Posted by Hashivalisesonyishecho - 14 Aug 2015 03:23

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[cordnoy wrote:](#)[newaction wrote:](#)[serenity wrote:](#)

Hashiva, What a wonderful post. Thank you for sharing that experience with us.

Just for the record the post about Dov i wrote to Hashivali. Is there a reply from Hashiva that serenity is talking about ? Please enlighten me.Thanks.

Hashiva is the catalyst and the impetus for all the superb posts on this thread....he deserves all the credit and thanks.

Thank you hashiva.

My goodness, how gracious!

But if that's way we allocate credit then you Cords ofishelly deserve the credit for the posts on this thread and many others too.

So I suppose it's like Rashi says about Moshe and Aharon:

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So in the case of these forums, I would say we all deserve the credit.

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Re: From tragedy to redemption

Posted by Hashivalisesonyishecho - 14 Aug 2015 03:27

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jack, I kinda like the way you think and the way you look at things.

**Warning: Spoiler!**

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Re: From tragedy to redemption  
Posted by jack - 14 Aug 2015 12:35

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*jack, I kinda like the way you think and the way you look at things.*

are you trying to give me a big head? gaava can be a person's downfall, among many other things (that can be someone's downfall).

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Re: From tragedy to redemption  
Posted by Dov - 15 Aug 2015 23:30

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[jack wrote:](#)

some might ask - does it really matter if it's religion-based or not? and i say it certainly does - because that will determine how we treat it.if the 12 steps is asking us to pray to G-d, and offer the serenity prayer at the end, which is a plea to G-d, then I say if they are bringing G-d into recovery, they feel it is a religious (ok, spiritual) issue.and i say that's good.why does the founder of this website always say to us - 'get closer to Hashem'? isn't that religious? it might not have STARTED with rebelling against Hashem, but i'm not talking about how it started.none of the strugglers on this forum, I am absolutely convinced, started their addiction to rebel against Hashem. maybe this is what you mean when you say it's not a religious issue.but NOW, when we are trying to recover, way back then they incredibly understood that you MUST bring G-d into your recovery.there's no other way.like i said above, you need the group support from humans in the same boat, but that doesn't mean we remove G-d from the picture.

Remove G-d from the picture?

Did you read the actual post I suggested?

The point is that you are talking about 'religion', as if it is ever the answer to anything at all. But we know it isn't. The answer - whenever religion *is* the answer - is only in the *application* of its principles in the heart of the actual religious person. And that is not enough to work. The principle needs to be applied correctly for that situation or else it won't work.

The Nuclear Reset Button (and actually all the 12 step literature) is about honest application of religious principles. I have never found any Rav or yeshiva or sefer help an addict actually *do* that better than the other perverts and drunks in meetings can. Call it sad, whatever. But it is no reflection on yiddishkeit in any respect. For the application of these things is fraught with issues that normal Jews cannot help that addict with. In fact, any recovering goy can do a far better job at that, than the average frum Jew can.

The point of the Nuclear Reset Button post was precisely that the addict's own inner misuse of religion - yes, even though it is Torah, and correct Torah - is actually fueling his or her addiction and probably always has.

I do not find this sad. It's to be expected. Torah is not for ill people. Help with learning honesty, and accepting the pain of growing up is for ill people. Expecting Torah to help w that is illogical and really just silly. For the entire *application* of Torah to help the dishonest and self-absorbed person is dependent on his use of it's ideas in a non-self-centered way in the first place!

Derech Eretz Kodma laTorah means this itself. Torah doesn't work for animals or crazy people. It just frustrates them over and over and makes them worse and worse.

So for the addict, his inner version of religion is actually *part of how he got that sick in the first place*. And reapplied, it will *keep* him sick.

So what do you propose? Remastering his religion so that it works right for him?

Great idea. But AA thought of that. Just read the 12 & 12 on steps 1-3 and it will be clear, I think.

But please read it, really, don't just peruse it. It's really good reading.

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Re: From tragedy to redemption  
Posted by jack - 17 Aug 2015 12:42

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dov, i do NOT disagree with what you say here.but why do we beseech G-d in the 12 step meetings? isn't it because we know with a full heart that only with G-d's ideals for living will we get better? that we can't rely on our own thinking? as you always (correctly) say

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Re: From tragedy to redemption  
Posted by shlomoy - 17 Aug 2015 15:42

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Hi Dov and everybody

Besides Ive also had this question, what you say about that I as an addict I am sick, I still insist that everyone is really sick like the Gemorah In sotah Ein Adam choiteh ela...."Ruach Shtus", And finnaly being honest is \_(a high level-meaning not easy- in our days) being jewish.

OR NOT??????????????

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Re: From tragedy to redemption  
Posted by Hashivalisesonyishecho - 17 Aug 2015 16:01

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[jack wrote:](#)

dov, i do NOT disagree with what you say here.but why do we beseech G-d in the 12 step meetings? isn't it because we know with a full heart that only with G-d's ideals for living will we get better? that we can't rely on our own thinking? as you always (correctly) say

I think what Dov is saying is that the addict has a disorder which causes him not to correctly apply the information and the rules and the lifestyle that he learns in The Torah, and it requires treatment through additional techniques and methods which aren't clearly explained in The Torah, in a similar sense that someone who suffers from attention deficit and therefore has a hard time learning Torah would need medical intervention which isn't clearly outlined in The Torah and for that matter the same as any medical condition. So the treatment would be to heal, by these means, the person's connection to Hashem and The Torah.

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Re: From tragedy to redemption  
Posted by jack - 17 Aug 2015 17:22

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again, i agree **wholeheartedly**.but you STILL did not answer my question of why we beseech G-d in the meetings!

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Re: From tragedy to redemption  
Posted by cordnoy - 17 Aug 2015 18:06

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[jack wrote:](#)

again, i agree **wholeheartedly**.but you STILL did not answer my question of why we beseech G-d in the meetings!

I like one sentence questions and answers.

I read every post from before and I looked at the relevant ones again now.

What exactly are you askin'?

We beseech God always!

We surrender to Him and ask HIm to restore us to sanity.

We ask Him to grant us serenity and courage.

We ask Him to remove our defects so we can remain sober.

We ask Him to help keep us honest.

We beg for forgiveness.

Some is done at a meetin'.

Most of these should be done daily, hourly, etc.

b'hatzlachah

Perhaps I missed the boat of your question; for that, i am sorry.

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Re: From tragedy to redemption

Posted by jack - 17 Aug 2015 20:12

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it was not so much of a question as making a point. here's my original post of aug 11 that started this conversation:

*Also, we say that recovery is not religion-based. it is a medical issue, as opposed to a G-d issue or a Torah issue. but if that's true, why is G-d mentioned in the 12 steps? we should be addressing the doctor, or a psychologist, or a psychiatrist, or medical literature as a higher power!!! obviously, it IS religion-based. true or not true?*

what i meant to say was not in disagreement with dov, but that beseeching G-d and surrendering to G-d automatically brings G-d into recovery. does it not? if yes, we can't say that religion plays no role in recovery. and this makes a big difference. we are not using ONLY our

knowledge - we are relying on a power outside ourselves. i'm just clarifying **FOR MYSELF** what recovery is all about.

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Re: From tragedy to redemption

Posted by Watson - 17 Aug 2015 20:44

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Jack,

It seems to me that to your ears 'G-d' is synonymous with 'religion'.

I don't believe that is the case. There have been religions that did not worship G-d at all, but were idolatrous. Conversely there seem to be people who have felt the spiritual contact of G-d without belonging to any religion.

The 12 step program is a spiritual program, not a religious one. I think that may be why the big book qualifies its use of the term 'G-d' with the words 'of our understanding'.

I'll just leave off with a quote from the big book:

"Upon hearing this, our friend was somewhat relieved,  
for he reflected that, after all, he was a good  
church member. This hope, however, was destroyed  
by the doctor's telling him that while his religious  
convictions were very good, in his case they did not  
spell the necessary vital spiritual experience."



p.s. I rarely come on the forum these days so I might not be able to respond to your response.  
Please don't be offended.

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Re: From tragedy to redemption  
Posted by gibbor120 - 17 Aug 2015 20:52

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Hey Watson,

Nice to "see" you again!

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Re: From tragedy to redemption  
Posted by jack - 18 Aug 2015 13:24

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eh, me no capisch. what's 'spiritual'? what's the difference between religion & spirituality? and if there IS a difference, why is G-d connected with spirituality? G-d should be connected with religion! you see my question? please answer, anyone.this is NOT just semantics. to me, this is the heart of recovery, and maybe the rest of my life too.

as far as being offended, the guys here are so friendly i have absolutely no fear of that, from anyone here.

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Re: From tragedy to redemption  
Posted by serenity - 18 Aug 2015 21:57

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For one thing, religion is a set of rules and practices that one follows in the worship of God. Spirituality is awareness of ourselves, our connection to people and the universe and our connection to God. You can be religious and be totally out of tune with spirituality and you can

be spiritual and not follow a defined religious worship.

There is more to it, but that's what comes to mind right now.

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Re: From tragedy to redemption

Posted by shlomoy - 19 Aug 2015 19:36

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my good friend Jack just an idea I don't know if it will help you.....

The word religion originally someone once explained is "religare" in *latin*

which means to re connect which could mean to constantly remember G-d.

However most probably after the 18th century in Europe when people realise the corruption etc. of the religion...so people called it spirituality.....(I think)

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