

WORDS OF WISDOM FROM RABBI YITZI

PARSHAS EMOR

When Tragedy Strikes

In this week's Parsha, Emor, we read about the care of newborn animals. "When an ox, a sheep, or a goat are born, for seven days it should remain under its mother's care, from the eighth day and on it will be acceptable as a sacrifice, a fire offering to Hashem."

Later in the same paragraph, the Torah commands us, "And you should not desecrate My Holy Name, that I may be sanctified amongst the children of Israel..."

What could possibly be the connection that brings these two laws together?

On a deeper level, the newborn animals are symbolic of our emotions, which our intellect, the mother, gives birth to. Rather than allow your emotions free reign, "seven days it should remain under its mother's care." Allow your mind time to develop the emotion before expressing it.

This is especially important with regard to things that are out of our control, things that come clearly and directly from Hashem, especially when they are impossible to make sense of. Here we need to allow our thoughts to process the notion that Hashem knows why He does these things. Our job is to find a way to sanctify Hashem through these events so that it changes us in a positive way.

This past Sunday (written in 2015), during the week of Parshas Emor, Hashem took

Chaya Spalter, a very special young girl, from this world. When I heard the news, I felt broken. My first thought was, "My heart is broken. I just can't understand. I don't want to understand. Why Hashem do you continually break us?"

We became the Spalters' neighbors, two years ago. I would see Chaya smiling despite her pain and suffering as she battled cancer, and it gave me strength. Her parents' ability to be positive, with all they were going through, helped me stay positive.

Shabbos, things are more difficult for me because I don't use my eye gaze computer, and being unable to move or speak, it can get boring.

On Shabbos afternoon, Chaya would take my daughters and other girls in our building. They would rehearse songs and create dances to go with them. She would bring them to my room and entertain me.

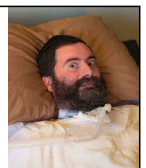
I am trying to find some meaning in this tragedy. If somehow we could learn to be more like Chaya, good, happy, strong, love for Hashem, positive, fearless, kind, and beautiful within and without, perhaps then we can turn the pain into a sanctification of Hashem's name.

May we merit the coming of Moshiach very soon, and an end to this bitter exile.

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Dedicated to the memory of Chaya Spalter. May you "entertain" us again, very soon.

Despite facing one of life's most difficult challenges, Rabbi Yitzi Hurwitz continues to spread joy and faith to thousands around the globe. Diagnosed in 2012 with ALS, Rabbi Yitzi is now 95% paralyzed and no longer able to speak or breath on his own. Thanks to the miracle of technology, Rabbi Yitzi continues to spread his wisdom through his eyes, focusing on each and every letter of these Torah articles. Rabbi Yitzi, his wife Dina and their seven children are the Rebbe's Shluchim to Temecula, California.



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