

I'm NOT fasting this Tisha B'av

Posted by cominghome - 14 Jul 2011 21:25

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There was a group of Ethiopians that were brought to Israel close to one of the Shalosh Regalim. An Israeli soldier was set up to educate the young Ethiopian children and began to teach them of the ancient rituals we're no longer able to do due to the fact that we no longer have a Beis HaMikdash. Surprisingly, the soldier had to teach these children that we no longer have a Temple! The "shocking" news lead to sincere mourning over our Temple which was destroyed over 2000 years ago, a very unique site to see. (See full story: [www.aish.com/jw/s/48893337.html](http://www.aish.com/jw/s/48893337.html))

What I always wonder is what the follow-up to this story is. I imagine the dialogue would be something like this:

Soldier: We don't have the Temple because it was destroyed years and years ago.

Ethiopian: So why don't we rebuild it?

Solider: Because there is a mosque on the Temple Mount.

Ethiopian: So? The entire civilized world, represented by the UN agreed that this is Jewish land in 1948. Shouldn't we treat it like Jewish land?

Soldier: Well, yes, but there is "World Opinion" and -

Ethiopian: You're telling me if all the Jews got together to rebuild the Temple, the other countries would still stop us?

Solider: Well, that's the problem, we can't get all the Jews together...

The way I see it, the only thing that will bring Moshiach and prevent us from having to fast in a little over three weeks from now is relationship. And we know that by giving in to our teiva, we are destroying relationships - with ourselves, with Gd, with our family, etc. We are, in essence, destroying all chances of rebuilding our Beis HaMikdash. I'm not speaking about the spiritual demons created when we spill seed - the concept of those beings doesn't do much for me emotionally - what I am talking about is that when we spill seed, we cut ourselves off. We're no longer able to care for our family or friends. We're no longer able to reach out and be a "Light on to the Nations". We're isolating ourselves, and in doing so we're pushing away those bricks that will one day sit on Har HaBayis.

In the same light, I had a thought about "Im Eshkachei Yerushalayim, Tischkach Yimini", "If I

forget Jerusalem, my right hand will forget (it's task)". Our goal should be to rebuild Yerushalayim. For those of us who are not yet able to find a way to Eretz Yisroel, the concept of Yerushalayim can still be seen internally - we are here to build a place for Gd in our hearts and our lives, we're here to build a Yerushalayim inside ourselves spiritually, as well as physically in it's proper place. When we allow our hands to wonder to the wrong place and do the wrong thing, it's only because we've forgotten our goal.

If we forget Yerushalayim (either our own Yerushalayim or the real one), our important hands will wonder aimlessly, south, to a place that will inevitably kill us.

We should all be zocheh to build healthy relationships with everyone around us, set our hands and minds on the right course, and together we should wine and dine this Tisha B'av.

P.S. Hopefully by this Tisha B'av this forum will no longer be necessary, at which point you're all invited to my house for a BBQ.

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Re: I'm NOT fasting this Tisha B'av  
Posted by Dov - 04 Dec 2011 12:11

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Hearing you loud and clear. It is sad that pat answers like that are so sweet to the ear of those who just do not want to face the music. Funny, I can't speak for him, but I bet that these days Yosef Hatzaddik would have responded even more strongly than he did there. But he said good, as usual.

Someone (Guard?) correct me if I am wrong, but was it Rav Twerski who suggested that **virtual** tools could be sufficient for those who were only **virtually** using?

Nu.

My only response to the person who comfortably relies on the "fight virtual with virtual" advice, would be this:

When a guy looks up schmutz, is he only **virtually** looking at it? Is he only **virtually** clicking the mouse and keys? When he has sex with himself, is it just **virtually** happening?

Is *anything* at all that we do **virtual**?

That's all.

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Re: I'm NOT fasting this Tisha B'av  
Posted by Yosef Hatzadik - 25 Apr 2012 04:42

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When someone is typing on his keyboard to post on this forum, calls in to a phone group using an anonymous username, or does a searching and fearless moral inventory by hand & shares some of it over the phone he is taking action of equal intensity and is just as **virtual** as his acting out was.

It is possible to become sober with the GYE tools alone.

[.....but, if anyone sees that after trying this method he still cannot stay sober, he ought to try a more potent form of Recovery. Otherwise.....]

"SA does not have a monopoly on Recovery....." (Dov)

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