

Navigating the ocean of my life

Posted by amevakesh - 17 Apr 2024 10:21

For the past 267 days, there have been sunny skies, calm winds, the boat's been steady, with nary a thought to the pirates that lurk beyond the horizon.

However, clouds are gathering, waves are getting choppier, and worst of all, a cry from the barrelman in the crow nest, "Pirates ahead"!!! I've been warned.

As they get closer, thoughts are swirling through my mind. I hear their evil whisperings in my head. "You thought you were off our radar, not so fast." Will they succeed in overtaking the ship I've put so much effort in constructing?

They're faster, sneakier, and more cunning than I, and I know that once they come too close, I'm doomed. But, I have an itch that needs to be scratched, a void that has to be filled, and I'm having a difficult time doing so.

But one thing I've learned here at GYE. There's safety in numbers. So I'm sending out a call to my fellow mates, can anyone help me out in how to overcome these Bein Hazmanim pirates?

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Re: Navigating the ocean of my life

Posted by Bennyh - 02 Dec 2024 02:48

As we're having this conversation, I just had a thought that might provide an answer to the original question:

When to stop asking Hashem for a specific bakasha?

Perhaps when the pain of being rejected begins to be felt more than the feeling of benefit you might gain as a result of your request being granted.

And maybe I'll put a finer point on it.

There is a certain measure of pleasure in asking Hashem to grant your specific request. The fact that you are communicating with the All-mighty Being that can do anything and everything allows a rush of hope to fill your soul. It feels good. Maybe this time finally, *finally*, things will change.

So to access that good feeling, we allow ourselves to open ourselves up to the possibility of being rejected. It's a trade off we're willing to make.

But once the pain of rejection compounds over time, that good feeling of hope diminishes and is outweighed by the dread of another "No".

When that tipping point is reached, perhaps it's time to back off.

I know that's when I backed off.

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Re: Navigating the ocean of my life
Posted by BennyH - 02 Dec 2024 03:02

[rebakiva wrote on 02 Dec 2024 02:43:](#)

Now I know that's not exciting, but I humbly think it could become exciting, let's say for example, the women were born with a gezeira, that they can't do any mitzva's besides for the three they were given, and yet they pray each and every day about that gezeira, even though it can't be

changed, they say every day ????... ????? ?????? so instead of davening to hashem to annul the gezeira, they praise hashem about it, which with all due respect, means true acceptance, I think this really the concept of the Mishna, ??? ????? ?? ????? ?? ????? ?? ?????, to just daven about your gezeira, not begging for it to be annuled, just reminding it in passing, and let hashem take the tefila and do with it, what he knows is best, for he really knows what you really want deep down, and he understands what you mean by just reminding it.

Reb Akiva, I love love love what you wrote here.

I actually recently had this conversation with my wife (after answering “amen” to her birchas hashachar on a car ride that we could have used to shmooze.)

It struck me for the first time what a beautiful bracha ????? ?????? really was.

Every single day, Jewish women wake up and declare to Hashem and more importantly, to themselves, that Hashem made me exactly as I need to be!

What an amazing affirmation of faith! Imagine ingraining that every day for years and decades! I looked at my wife and I finally understood her unshakable faith and her complete ease with her life. She has trained herself for years to be OKAY with the way she is and the way things are.

And I thought to myself, I'm jealous! Why wasn't I brought up with such a treasure? Why don't men say to themselves every day, ????? ?????? — He made me the perfect way I'm meant to be! Why is it a gender thing? (Kind of like a reverse open orthodoxy gripe). And more importantly, where else in the entire nusach hatefillah do men have an opportunity to express this idea? To ACCEPT the Will of Hashem in our lives?

And now to your actual point, Reb Akiva. Accepting, is vvvvverrrrry different from davening. When we talk about davening, we talk about asking for stuff, for lack of any better way of saying

it.

What you're saying is beautiful, and I'm all for it, but it would require a new nusach hatefila that unfortunately the anshei kenesses hagedolah have not bequeathed to us.

Perhaps a gadol out there can pen a Testament of Acceptance that people can say and plug and play their preferred act of acceptance. I love this concept, thanks Reb Akiva.

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Re: Navigating the ocean of my life

Posted by vehkam - 02 Dec 2024 04:19

[amevakesh wrote on 01 Dec 2024 22:45:](#)

Question for the Chashuve Oilam. We know, that ????? has the power to alter certain decrees. We also know that sometimes '?' has a plan for a person to struggle with something for the duration of his stay on this world (likely for his benefit), which no amount of ????? will change. When one has been Davening for something for a while to happen, at what point is he meant to accept it as part of '?'s plan and make peace with it. Davening repeatedly for something can be very very draining. I am aware that no ????? goes to waste, but if I come to accept a situation beyond my control as part of '?'s master plan of my life, it would bring a certain level of peace. But I can only do so if I give up hope that it will get better. Paradoxically, the hope itself is a source of frustration, because I find that as time goes on and I try yet another ???, and offer another ????? only to have my hopes dashed time and again (I know that '?' has my real best interests in mind, that's not the question), it chips away at my resolve and ability to accept it with joy as '?'s plan for my life. At which point, if any, does one say I've Davened enough, it's time to move on and deal with it as a fact of life, and make the best of the situation. Looking for clarity.

There is no rule on this. You can daven based on how you feel. Either way ask hashem to hold your hand and walk with you through the pain.

thinking of you

vehkam

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Re: Navigating the ocean of my life

Posted by odyossefchai - 02 Dec 2024 11:03

[Bennyh wrote on 02 Dec 2024 02:48:](#)

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Do we ever stop Daveening?

We say the same shmone esrey 3 times a day, 300 times a year, for 70ish years.

My calculator says that's 63,000 times.

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Re: Navigating the ocean of my life

Posted by chaimoigen - 02 Dec 2024 17:55

[Bennyh wrote on 02 Dec 2024 03:02:](#)

And more importantly, where else in the entire nusach hatefillah do men have an opportunity to express this idea? To ACCEPT the Will of Hashem in our lives?

This is a topic that's incredibly personal and sensitive, and I'm not really going to chime in, aside from expressing my feeling of sympathy to those who are in situations that feel dead-ended and unchangeable.

I thought I would share that for me, when I say the end of the Brocha of Al Hatzaddikim, and I ask to be included among those who have true *Bitachon*, I think about and Daven for serenity. The serenity to accept with complete comfort and equanimity those things that the Rebono Shel Olam will not change, no matter how desperately I beseech him to do so. I Daven to be able to rest my *keppeleh* on His shoulder with complete serenity and quietude. Bitachon means acceptance, among other things (such as trust, faithfulness, and security).

Does this mean I stop Davening about those things? Still trying to figure it out myself. But one thing I know: I often spend a while on the words

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And I find comfort therein, many times.

??? ???? ????

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Re: Navigating the ocean of my life
Posted by amevakesh - 02 Dec 2024 18:30

Thank you so much for the responses. Having the Oilam care about what lies behind the question makes the burden so much easier to bear. I would like to clarify my original question. As Benny picked up on (it takes a lot of intuition to read between the lines), I don't have a problem accepting the "no", if that's Hashem's plan for me. I'm just unclear whether he wants me to continue Davening ????? ???? , or to accept it as a fact of life that's beyond my control. My Davening would then shift to one of ??? ?????? or in R"A's ???? of "????? ??????". Then, in addition to thanking Him for all the things in my life that I'm truly blessed, I would be able to thank Him for my challenges as well (since I know it's to my benefit). I don't think it's a question of feeling rejected by Hashem. I've never had that feeling. I'm generally a happy person, it's just that sometimes a feeling of sadness hits me. Not because of rejection, but because of the situation I'm in. It doesn't usually last too long, because I tell myself, that this is my ????? in life, and in the overall picture, I have it pretty good. I'm blessed in so many other areas of life and if this is my challenge then so be it. When I go through these occasional bouts of sadness, I sometimes am in the mood of Davening, then I wonder, is there any point? Should I psych myself up into "request mode", knowing that in all likelihood, this ain't gonna change so quickly, or maybe not at all? In order to do so, I need to allow a glimmer of hope into my heart. This carries the challenge of putting myself on an emotional roller coaster. Allowing hope into my heart, then realizing that nothing has changed is hard. Or do I approach Hashem with the mindset that this is my reality, please help me get through it, and I can even be grateful to Him for the complete package that he gave me. The blessings, the challenges, the ups and the downs.

To reframe the question in other words. We know that ??? ????? Davened 515 ?????, then ' ? said ?? ? ? and he stopped Davening. Did ??? stop because ' ? told him to, or because he realized that his ????? wouldn't be answered in the way he wanted? Had he known all along what the outcome would have been, would he have still Davened 515 times, or did he do so because ' ? wanted him to ask (maybe there's a certain level of a deep relationship, when a

person makes himself vulnerable through requests that are important to him, regardless of the outcome)? I'm not asking from a place of pain, more like from a place of frustration and confusion. Hope that my lack of clarity is clear.

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Re: Navigating the ocean of my life
Posted by cande - 02 Dec 2024 18:58

[amevakesh wrote on 02 Dec 2024 18:30:](#)

I don't have a problem accepting the "no", if that's Hashem's plan for me.

good Q,

Hashem's plan for me? is---To pray, he wants your prayers, THATS IT! there is no such thing as "NO" at least ?????? while living on earth.

we dont pray to GET stuff'

god could give it without you begging

we pray to show hashem that hes the only one to turn to, it brings out, shows and strengthen our ?????

we pray cause it brings us closer to god

tfillah is a never ending thing

@ no point can you say im stopping to pray cause obviously hashem doesnt want to give it,

hashem could change things and grant you @ any givin' time ????? your tefillos

hashem told moshe STOP praying cause 1 more teffila im gonna be forced to let you in to isreal, and i hashen know its not a good thing.

cande

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Re: Navigating the ocean of my life
Posted by chosemyshem - 02 Dec 2024 20:25

Don't the seforim say the ideal tefillah is solely davening for the tzar of the shechina? Now, I have no idea what it means for the shechina to be in tzar, but the gemara tells us it happens when a yid is in tzar. So I guess the answer is, if it still bothers you then there's a purpose/mitzvah/benefit to keep on davening.

And since we're on GYE. I once heard Dov explain the 12 steps level of radical acceptance as not davening for things to be different. Just pure acceptance of Hashem's will. Like Bennyh and R' Akiva talked about, that can be a beautiful thing. It's clearly not the general way of life the Torah demands from us day to day - hence the mitzvah to daven in every eis tzarah.

So I think there's a type of acceptance that is not a stirah to tefillah. Meaning, iyun tefillah - waiting and expecting your tefillah to be answered is bad. Connecting to Hashem and recognizing that this your life is his will but also recognizing the situation is difficult for you, and asking for Hashem to change the situation is a different type of thing. It's acceptance of Hashem's will but at the same time a recognition of your own pain and Hashem's interest in you and your world.

Just some thoughts.

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Re: Navigating the ocean of my life
Posted by 138eagle - 08 Dec 2024 21:26

A Shout out to our friend Amevakesh!!

Mazel Tov on 500 Days!!!!

Here's to 5,000 and 50,000!!!

And from the many others that you have helped (including me)

Thank you!!!!

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Re: Navigating the ocean of my life
Posted by richtig - 08 Dec 2024 22:50

Thank you for bringing up this question. It is a mature and sensible one.

Peerhaps there is position to daven, not from a place of begging for a "yes", but from a place that says "Please Hashem, understand my need, whether you decide to provide it or not. Even if You choose to say 'no', at least know that I feel I need this".

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Re: Navigating the ocean of my life
Posted by Heeling - 09 Dec 2024 00:48

[138eagle wrote on 08 Dec 2024 21:26:](#)

A Shout out to our friend Amevakesh!!

Mazel Tov on 500 Days!!!!

Here's to 5,000 and 50,000!!!

And from the many others that you have helped (including me)

Thank you!!!!

Oh wow! major mazel Tov!

I remember when you joined and eventually when we spoke [and later met], feels like yesterday.
You taught me so much! Your a true inspiration and a real mentch.

Keep Rocking!!!!

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Re: Navigating the ocean of my life
Posted by Muttel - 09 Dec 2024 01:18

Mazel tov on 500!!

Heres to a future of growth, success, and most of all, trucking!

With overflowing brotherly love,

Muttel

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Re: Navigating the ocean of my life
Posted by amevakesh - 09 Dec 2024 03:23

Thank you so much for your kind words, it really means a lot to me. As I reflect on my journey so far, I'm filled with ????? to Hashem, and all of His ??????. I was going through my GYE contacts on ??? ??, and I decided to see how many of them there were. I counted 28. 28 special people that I'm privileged to call friends. There is no doubt in my mind that without the friends that I made, I would not be here today. One of them helped me by pulling me out of the mud (we all know who that one is). Some of them reached out to me in friendship before I ever posted anything. Some of them inspired me greatly by teaching me how to be a good husband, even when it's not so easy. Some of them helped me out through very sticky situations by giving me hours of their precious time. Some have helped me by listening to me venting and Kvetching when things get rough. If anyone ever got ????? from me, they should know that I feel that ????? ??? ?????? ????? ?? ?????, ????? ????? ?? ??????. More precisely, I really feel that I'm not sure who the ??? and who the ????? is. ??? ????? ?????? that I cherish and value each friend deeply, and your friendship means the world to me. Over the course of my journey, there have been times that my strength has been depleted, but 28 is ??! My dear friends you have given me ?? to continue this fight, lifted me up when my spirits are down and for that I will forever be grateful.

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Re: Navigating the ocean of my life
Posted by Muttel - 09 Dec 2024 09:45

GYE kinship is super special. But this is uncanny. I went through my contacts Friday and added the letters GYE after every friend to be able to count how many I had.....

Amevakesh, getting to know you has been a balm on a parched soul.....

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