

TNXS TO BET HILLEL, TNXS TO RABBI JESSIE LOTT AND RABBI ARI ISRAEL FOR THIS OPPORTUNITY AGAIN, ONE MORE TIME TO SHARE WITH OUR STUDENTS A FEW SOME REFLECTIONS. I EXPRESS THIS THANKS JUST NOT FOR THE PROTOCOL, BUT BECAUSE SPEAKING IN FRONT OF SUCH A LARGE AUDIENCE HELPED ME THROUGH THESE LAS DAYS OF TREPIDATION, YAMIM NORAIM OR DAYS OF TREPIDATION TO PUT MY THOUGHTS TOGETHER, TO DO MY OWN INTROSPECT, AS SAID, WITH Rosh Hashanah, the gates of Heaven open to receive our petitions , FOR A WEEK WE NEED TO AN INTROSPECT AND PROCESS THEM. And, on Yom Kippur – a day WE SHOULD fill with fasting and the solemnity of prayer — in the final moments of *Neilah* (the closing service of Yom Kippur), those gates will close as we pray that all will be sealed in the Book of Life.

I GUESS WE ARE ALL AWARE ABOUT THE MANY DIFFERENT WAYS TO EXPRESS OUR PERSONAL JUDAISM- MY JUDAISM, ROUTINELY EVERYDAY IS SEARCHING FOR A GOOD DEED AND A NIGHT PRAYER, BUT IT ALL COMES TO A TEST , A YEARLY BALANCE IN YOM KIPPUR.

I HAVE SELECTED TO MENTION IN THIS DAY OF ATTONMENT WITH TWO REFLECTIONS WHICH ARE A PRIORITY CONCERN IN MY OWN LIFE :

- 1) ONE RELATES TO THE IMPORTANCE OF TO THE “OTHER” HUMAN BEINGS, ASKING FOR FORGIVENESS UNTILL THEIR ACCEPTANCE, A PRECONDITION TO MOTIVATE OUR GOD ALMIGHTY GRANTING HIS PARDON TO US
- 2) THE RELATION OF INTERNAL PEACE WITH WORLD PEACE, MY OWN PERSONAL REFLECTION OF YOM KIPPUR WAR IN 1973. MY LESSONS WITH AN ARTILLERY UNIT 200 DAYS, SHELLING DAMASCUS MILITARY HEADQUARTERS FROM A 20 MILES DISTANCE, AND GETING SHELLED AND SEEING FRIENDS KILLED. A MEMORY RELEVANT TO TO THE HORRIBLE LEVEL OF SUFFERING AND THREATS OF A REGIONAL IMPACT THROUGHOUT THE MIDDLE EAST, THIS KIPPUR- NOW 40 YEARS AFTER. EVEN EARLIER, GOOGLE YOM KIPPUR AND PEACE AND SEE THAT MOST SITES RELATE TO THE 73 WAR.
EVEN IF IN OUR PRAYERS REPEATEDLY WE INVOKE GOD TO MAKE PEACE ON US, ON THE CHILDREN OF ISRAEL AND IN YOUR MAHZOR RIGHTLY

ADDING "AL KOL YOSHVEI TEVEL", FOR ALL WHO DWELL ON EARTH, THE ENTIRE WORLD. .STILL SECONDARY IN GOOGLE

BOTH REFLECTIONS COULD BE INTERPRETED AS PART OF Tikkun olam¹ is a phrase that means "repairing the world" which suggests humanity's shared responsibility to heal, and transform the world."IN OTHER WORDS, IT means that Jews are not only responsible for creating a model society among themselves but also are responsible for the welfare of the society at large. RABBIS HAVE DISCUSSED WHAT IS MORE IMPORTANT IN JUDAISM, IF LEARNING [PRAYEING INCLUDED] OR ACTION, NAASEH VENISHMA, ACTION BEFORE LEARN, IF URGENT, BUT RABBI AKIVA MADE MY BEST CHOICE: STUDY LEADS TO ACTION, A NECESSARY BUT NOT A SUFFICIENT CONDITION

- 1) AS FOR THE FIRST REFLECTION, WHEN SO MUCH IS TO SAY. WHAT COULD BE BETTER IN THIS BAYIT, THIS HOUSE, BUT TO QUOTE HILLEL HIMSELF, WHEN ASKED WHAT CAN BE THE MEANING OF THE ENTIRE TORAH'S CONTENT WHILE STANDING ON ONE FOOT: HIS ANSWER WAS "What is hateful to you," said **Hillel**, "do not do to your neighbor. ... NO DOUBT, HILLEL WOULD BE THE FIRST CHAMPION OF TWITTER IN THE GUINNESS BOOK OF RECORDS.

WHY IS HILLEL RELEVANT TO YOM KIPPUR? THE WAY WE TREAT THE OTHER, CONCEPT OF REPAIR SHOULD BE THE CENTER OF OUR INTROSPECT.WHICH BRINGS ME TO A QUOTE FROM YESHYIA Those who think the main thing in Yom Kippur is JUST fasting and coming to FULFILL the ritual PRAYER, they are wrong from a JEWISH point of view THE REAL CHALLENGE IS TO ASK AND GET FORGIVENESS FROM ANOTHER HUMAN BEING. HUMAN BEING ALL INCLUSIVE?

IMPROVISE

GENESIS ADAM BTSELEM ELOKIM IMAGE OF GOD, PRIOR TO ABRAHAM, FATHER OF JEWS [AND ALSO MUSLIM, ISAAC AND ISMAEL]

It is therefore especially important to appreciate the stranger IN HEBREW GER who lives among us, who chose us out of all the nations of the world of their own free will. AT TIMES WE HAVE BEEN THE "GER" THE

STRANGER IN FOREIGN LANDS AS A MIGRANT MINORITY :THE GER”
THE STRANGER, AT TIMES LIKE NOW IN ISRAEL WE HAVE TO
RESPECT THE “OTHER” IN THIS CASE THE ARABS UNDER JEWISH
RULE , THEY ARE EVEN MORE THAN GER, THEY ARE THE NATIVES.

IMPROVISE:

WHEN PREPARING THIS DRASHA AND SEEKING THE BIBLICAL
REFERENCE TO EQUAL AND HUMAN RIGHTS, I CONSULTED RABBI
GERRY SEROTTA,HUMAN RIGHTS: RABBI GERRY SEROTTA, [GW]
SHIRAT HA NEFESH [YESTERDAY KOL NIDREH] RENNE CASSIN –
UDHR – TEN COMMANDEMENT. HE POINTED ME TO THIS MORNING
HAFTARAH M YESHIAH CHAPTER 58:14

58:14

**Is such the fast I desire,
 A day for men to starve their bodies?
 Is it bowing the head like a bulrush
 And lying in sackcloth and ashes?
 Do you call that a fast,
 A day when the Lord is favorable?
⁶ No, this is the fast I desire:
 To unlock the fetters of wickedness,
 And untie the cords of the yoke
 To let the oppressed go free;
 To break off every yoke.
 It is to share your bread with the hungry,
 And to take the wretched poor into your home;
 When you see the naked, to clothe him,
 And not to ignore your own kin.**

Rabbi Shefa Gold , a leader in ALEPH: the Alliance for Jewish Renewal SHE SUGGEST WE examine issues they are going through in OUR lives, XXI CENTURY, NOW. AND SHE COULD NOT BE MORE EXPLICIT IN THE ALREADY PROPHETICAL WORDS OF YsHEiah'S *DENOUNCING THOSE WHO GO THROUGH THE RITUALS BUT DO NOT FOLLOW THE BEHAVIORIAL IMPLICATIONS*

Oh sure, I hear their prayers every day,
 They say they want to learn my ways. Hah!
 As if you were a people doing righteousness,
 Who has not abandoned decency and compassion!
 All the while saying you want be near me.
 They say, "Don't you see we're fasting?
 Don't you see how holy we have become?"

But on your fast day you wear clothes
that were made by Chinese prisoners,
And shoes that were cried over
by terrified children in loathsome sweatshops,
And the books you hold in your hands,
are filthy with the tears of dying forests...
And your investments fatten the rich,
who are destroying this land.

Well, I'll tell you what kind of fast I would desire from you...

**Unlock the chains of your greed and habit,
Free you from slavery of being blind consumers,
Let the oppressed worker go free
by raising the minimum wage.**

**The fast I want is one that will inspire you
to share your food with the hungry,
To redistribute the wealth of this land fairly,
To build affordable housing for the homeless,
And to welcome back the people you have thrown out of your
hearts, Even the ones in your own family.**

IMPROVISE SECOND REFLECTION –ACTION AND PRAYER

2] YOM KIPPUR AND PEACE. MY OWN RECOLLECTION RELATES OVERWHELMINGLY RELATES TO YOM KIPPUR WAR, - AFTER 20 TOTAL WAR, ARTILLERY LEFT GOLAN ATTRITION WAR, FOR 200 DAYS GOLAN 20 MILES FROM DAMASCUS THE RANGE OF OUR 175 MM GUNS [THE LONGEST, US MADE]. ALL 5 FIGHT TWO HOME, WHEN TANK DRIVER HOME WE ALL WANT TO DRIVE, ONE DAY A SYRIAN MISSILE FELL INTO OUR BATTERIES, KILLED, WE NEEDED TO MOVE OUT, DRIVE PRAYING MY ONLY PRAYER REMEMBER FROM BAR MITZVA'S ALYIAH LATORAH

AND NOW 2013, WAS IT A WAR OF CHOICE OR NOT CHOICE?, DOCUMENTS ARE NOW OPEN, REVISION OF "EIN BREIRA", BUT SURELY AFTER THIS TILL PRESENT, NO ONE WAR WAS THREATENING THE EXISTENCE OF ISRAEL,

NOW PEACE JORDAN, EGYPT NO ONE SOLDIER KILLED. EVEN SYRIA ONLY DIENGAGEMENT OF FORCES, NO ONE SOLDIER KILLED IN GOLAN, BOTH SIDES !!1. MILKHEMET EIN BREIRA, SUCCESS MORE THAN 1967, STARTING POINT ATTACKED IN YOM KIPPUR. SINCE THEN NO WAR WITH AN ARAB COUNTRIES, MOST VICTIMS OF BOTH SIDES CIVILIANS, MILKHEMET RESHUT IN THE SENSE THAT NO EXISTENTIAL THREAT. ASSYMETRICAL WAR, NOT SHORT BUT PROTRACTED, UPRISING CIVILIANS, SUCIDE BOMBIN OR NONVIOLENCE, MOST PALESTINIANS KILLED CIVILIANS, COLATERAL DAMAGE[WE TOO FROM 90% MILITARY, INCLUDING MY WIFE LISA'S FATHER] TO 2/3 CIVILIANS, FROM BORDERS TO THE COASTAL CITIES. LAST YEAR NO ACTS OF TERROR WERE SUCCESFULLY PERPETUATED. AMEN INTERNAL/EXTERNAL PEACE, AT PEACE WITH OURSELVES. CONNECTING INTERNAL PEACE TO EXTERNAL LASTIN PEACE IS A MAJOR COMMITMENT

IN CONCLUSION, BOTH ARE TASEDEK TSEDEK TIRDOF, PURSUE JUSTICE AND JUSTICE, AND PEACE, SUKKAT SHALOM START BUILDING IT AS FROM TOMORROW, TRADITION UC LA ALL CAMPUS GROUPS INCLUDING ARAB/MUSLIM.

JUSTICE AND PEACE CONNECT ALSO WITH OUR SURVIVAL THROUGH GENERATIONS, OUR RIGHT TO BE DIFFERENT, RIGHT OF ALL NATIONS, IN THE MIDDLE EAST, AND DIASPORAS, EQUALITY/DIVERSITY.

WHAT CAN WE DO, EACH OF US? CHECKING MY OWN TZITZIOT IN THE TALIT, AS WE SAY, DEFINING MY JUDAISM, WE SHOULD BE AWARE THIS IS ONLY A DROP IN THE OCEAN. FOR INSTANCE, IN THE YAMIM NORAIM AND KIPPUR, I MAKE 10 LONG DISTANCE PHONE CALLS TO PEOPLE EITHER MYSELF OR COLLECTIVELY MY FAMILY, MY NATION, TO WHO PEOPLE HAVE BEEN NEGLECTED NOT ONLY JEWS BUT OFTEN PALESTINIANS. TO THINK HOW BEST TO ADDRESS THEIR NEEDS , CORRECT OUR COLLECTIVE WRONGDOINGS.

BRINGING JEWISH FROM MARYLAND TO HAIFA UNIVERSITY THIS COMING AND THE LAST 4 SPRING SEMESTER AS I DO IS ALSO TO SHOW AND RECOGNIZE THAT COEXISTENCE BETWEEN ARAB AND JEW, RELIGIOUS AND SECULAR CAN BE A REALITY. BEAUTIFUL HAIFA IS LIKE AN ISLAND OF HUMANITY, MULTICULTURAL AND DIVERSE. I ENCOURAGE YOU TO JOIN ME, FEEL FREE TO CONTACT ME OR EDUCATION ABROAD..

LET ME END BY INTRODUCING BIRTHRIGHT IN THIS CONTEXT: LIKE FASTING OR PRAYING AND STUDYING FOR A FEW DAYS IS NOT ENOUGH TO SENSE ISRAEL. YOU NEED TO HAVE A MEANINGFUL PERIOD OF REFLECTION ABOUT THE PLACE ISRAEL KEEPS IN YOUR HEARTS, WHAT DOES ZIONISM MEAN FOR YOU. THIS IS ,FROM PERSONAL EXPERIENCE, THIS IS A UNIQUE TIME TO DO SO, AFTERWARDS WORK AND FAMILY WILL NOT ALLOW TO TAKE SUCH TIME OFF, AND YOUR LIFE MAY HAVE BEEN CHANNELED IN DIFFERENT WAYS BEFORE REALIZING HOW CLOSE OR FAR ISRAEL IS FOR YOU AS A JEW. AND ONE MORE OBSERVATION: COMING TO HAIFA HAS BEEN SAFER THAN PLACES IN PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY. I HAVE BEEN WILLING TO TALK TO HESITANT AND PROTECTIVE PARENTS TO LET STUDENTS COME TO UMD PROGRAM IN HAIFA, READY TO DO IT AGAIN.

IMPROVISE PERSONAL, GROUP, UNIVERSAL, IM EIN ANI LI MI LI, VEAHAVTA ET REHECHA KAMOCHA. THE RESPECT OF MINORITIES, TREAT THEM AS EQUALS, DIASPORA RIGHT TO BE DIFFERENT, AND IN IN OTHER WORDS IN A MINIMALIST SENSE, MOST OF US are Jews neither by fault nor by merit,

only BY HEREDITY thanks to our parents? . ONLY FEW AMONG US ARE JEWS BY OUR OWN CHOICE. Consciousness trumps heredity, and identification is thicker than blood and semen.