



## “Reflections and Perspectives”

December 2022

As the year 2022 comes to an end, let us take a moment to reflect on the past and learn for the future. Sometimes people come into our lives and we know right away that they were meant to be there, to serve some sort of purpose, to teach us a lesson, or to help us figure out who we are or who we want to become. We never know who these people may be (possibly our neighbor, coworker, long lost friend, lover, or even a complete stranger), but when we lock eyes with them, we know at that very moment they will affect our lives in some profound way.

Sometimes things happen to us that may seem horrible, painful, and unfair at first, but in reflection we find that without overcoming those obstacles we would have never realized our potential, strength, willpower, or heart. Everything happens for a reason.

Nothing happens by chance or by means of good luck. Illness, injury, love, lost moments of true greatness, and sheer stupidity all occur to test the limits of our soul. Without these small tests, whatever they may be, life would be like a smoothly paved, straight, flat road to nowhere. It would be safe and comfortable, but dull and utterly pointless.

The people we meet who affect our lives, and the success and downfalls we experience, help to create who we are and who we become. Even the bad experiences can be learned from.

In fact, they are probably the most poignant and important ones. If someone hurts us, betrays us, or breaks our heart, forgive them, for they have helped us learn about trust and the importance of being cautious when we open our hearts.

If someone loves us, love them back unconditionally, not only because they love us, but because in a way, they are teaching us to love and how to open our hearts and eyes to things.

Make every day count.

Appreciate every moment and let us take from those moments everything that we possibly can for we may never be able to experience those moments again.

Talk to people that you have never talked to before, and actually listen.

Hold your head up because you have every right to. Tell yourself you are a great individual and believe in yourself, for if you don't believe in yourself, it will be hard for others to believe in you.

You can make of your life anything you wish.

Create your own life and then go out and live it with absolutely no regrets.

Most importantly, if you love someone tell him or her, for you never know what tomorrow may have in store.

And remember, learn a lesson in life each day that you live.

The following story helps put it in the right perspective.

A man stopped at a flower shop to order some flowers to be wired to his mother who lived two hundred miles away. As he got out of his car he noticed a young girl sitting on the curb sobbing. He asked her what was wrong and she replied, "I wanted to buy a red rose for my mother. But I only have seventy-five cents, and a rose costs two dollars."

The man smiled and said, "Come on in with me. I'll buy you a rose."

He bought the little girl her rose and ordered his own mother's flowers. As they were leaving, he offered the girl a ride home. She said, "Yes, please! You can take me to my mother."

She directed him to a cemetery, where she placed the rose on a freshly dug grave.

The man returned to the flower shop, cancelled the wire order, picked up a bouquet and drove the two hundred miles to his mother's house. (Way to go !!!!!!!definitely a thought to keep in mind.)

As we are about to enter a New Year 2023, let us take a moment to give thanks for all of our blessings of the past and pray that we continue to merit G-d's love and blessings. Let us use the following creed to help us with our New Year resolutions!.

#### "A Creed To Live By"

Don't undermine your worth by comparing yourself with others

It is because we are different that each of us is special

Don't let your goals be based on what other people deem important,  
only you know what's best for you

Don't take for granted the things close to your heart,  
cling to those you love as you would your life! For without them life is meaningless.

Don't let your life slip through your fingers, by living in the past or for the future.

By living your life one day at a time, you live all the days of your life.

Don't give up when you have something to give, nothing is really over until the moment you stop trying.

Don't be afraid to admit that you are less perfect, It is this fragile thread that binds us to each other.

Don't be afraid to encounter risk, It is by taking chances that we learn to be brave.

Don't shut love out of your life by saying it's impossible to find. The quickest way to receive love, is to give love, the fastest way to lose love is to hold too tightly.

And the best way to keep love is to give it wings.

Don't dismiss your dreams, to be without dreams, is to be without hope, to be without hope is to be without purpose.

Don't run through life so fast that you forget not only where you've been, but also where you're going.

LIFE IS NOT A RACE, BUT A JOURNEY TO BE SAVORED EACH STEP OF THE WAY.....

And a little humor to finish your year with a smile...

"How did you get rich?"

A young man asked an old rich man how he made his money.

The old man fingered his worsted wool vest and said, "Well son, it was 1932, the depth of the Great Depression. I was down to my last nickel. I invested that nickel in an apple. I spent the entire day polishing that apple and, at the end of the day, I sold the apple for ten cents.

The next morning, I invested those ten cents in two apples. I spent the entire day polishing them and sold them for 20 cents. I continued this system of polishing and selling, each time reinvesting my profits into buying more apples."

"Wow!" said the young man, "and that's how you accumulated your fortune?"

"Nah", said the old man, "my wife's father died and left us 20 million dollars."...LOL

For the curious: Why I put in the dash in The name of G-d

Please note: I do not spell out The name of G-d out of respect.

Spelling out THE NAME and then throwing it in the trash, would be considered by some, a desecration of THE NAME, so I put in the dash. This is a religious custom some follow, thanks for understanding.

On behalf of All the Chaplains, May G-d bless you, keep you safe and always keep you in his loving care.

Season's Greetings, Merry Christmas, Happy Chanukah and a very Happy New Year, may 2023 be one of your best ones yet!

Should you need an ear to listen or a shoulder to lean on, or perhaps have some good humor to share, please don't hesitate to give us a call.

Compliments of our Police Chaplain, Rabbi Moshe Wolf  
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