

Born Again? Embracing the Opportunity of THIS Moment

"Look well to the growing edge! All around us worlds are dying and new worlds are being born; all around us life is dying and life is being born. The fruit ripens on the tree, the roots are silently at work in the darkness of the earth against a time when there shall be new leaves, fresh blossoms, green fruit. Such is the growing edge! It is the extra breath from the exhausted lung, the one more thing to try when all else has failed, the upward reach of life when weariness closes in upon all endeavors. This is the basis of hope in moments of despair, the incentive to carry on when times are out of joint and men have lost their reason, the source of confidence when worlds crash and dreams whiten into ash. The birth of the child — life's most dramatic answer to death — this is the growing edge incarnate. Look well to the growing edge!"

~Howard Thurman

Kedushat Levi

...each and every person must believe with complete faith in each and every moment she receives vitality from the Source of All Being. Each moment, the vital force seeks to leave the body, yet each moment the Source of All sends renewed vigor. From this we can understand Teshuvah can be effective for every person. In the moment that he transforms himself through teshuvah, he also believes that he has become a new creation...But if a person does not believe this, then her teshuvah is ineffective. This then explains the teaching that “and now” means teshuvah. When we believe that we are made new each moment, our teshuvah will be effective.

Liminality: The state of being on a threshold

Two Possible Approaches from Yevamot 121a

1) Partial Release

Rabban Gamliel said: Once I was traveling on a boat, and from a distance I saw a boat that shattered and sank. And I was grieved over the apparent death of the Torah scholar who was on board. And who was it? Rabbi Akiva. But when I disembarked onto dry land, he came, and sat, and deliberated before me about *halakha*. I said to him: My son, who brought you up from the water? He said to me: A plank from the boat came to me, and I bent my head before each and every wave that came toward me. The waves did not wash me off of the board, and I reached the shore....

Born Again?

Embracing the Opportunity of THIS Moment

- What ship will we leave behind?
- What plank will we hold on to?
- What waves will we bend into for the sake of reaching the shore?
- Once safely on shore, what higher or larger purpose will we commit ourselves to serve?

2) Blank Slate

Rabbi Akiva said: Once I was traveling on a boat, and I saw a certain boat sinking at sea, and I was grieved over the apparent death of the Torah scholar who was on board. And who was it? Rabbi Meir. But when I disembarked, he came, and sat, and deliberated before me about *halakha*. I said to him: My son, who brought you up from the water? He said to me: One wave carried me to another, and that other wave to another, until I reached the shore, and a wave cast me up onto dry land.

- What ship will we leave behind?
- What waves will we allow to carry us?
- Once safely on shore, what higher or larger purpose will we commit ourselves to serve?