

The Easy Way and the Hard Way to Apologize

Yom Kippur Makor 2021

Rabbi Shayna Golkow

Dr. Molly Howes' Four Steps to an Apology	Maimonides' Principles for Teshuvah
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Don't just do something; stand there. (Listen and learn about the impact of your actions on the other person.) 2. Say it and mean it. (Apologize and take responsibility.) 3. Debts, IOUS, and making things whole. (Offer reparations.) 4. Never again! (Change the situation so it never happens again.) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Feel genuine remorse, resolving internally not to make the same mistake again. ● Verbally confess your mistake and ask for forgiveness directly from the one you hurt. ● Confess the mistake publicly if possible. ● Apologize until forgiven, up to three times. ● Try to make restitution to the person you hurt. ● Act differently when you find yourself in the same situation again.

Exodus 9:27-28 and 9:33-35	
<p>9:27. Thereupon Pharaoh sent for Moses and Aaron and said to them, "I stand guilty this time. Adonai is in the right, and I and my people are in the wrong.</p> <p>28. Plead with Adonai that there may be an end of God's thunder and of hail. I will let you go; you need stay no longer."</p> <p>...</p> <p>33. Leaving Pharaoh, Moses went outside the city and spread out his hands to Adonai: the thunder and the hail ceased, and no rain came pouring down upon the earth.</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">וַיִּשְׁלַח פַּרְעֹה וַיִּקְרָא לְמֹשֶׁה וְלֵאמֹר וַיֹּאמֶר אֲלֵהֶם תִּטְּאֵתִי הַפְּעַם הַזֶּה וְאֲנִי וְעַמִּי הָרְשָׁעִים:</p> <p style="text-align: right;">הִעֲתִירוּ אֵלֶי-ה' וְרַב מִהֵלֵת קִלְתֵּי אֱלֹהִים וַיִּבְרָד וַאֲשַׁלְחָה אֶתְכֶם וְלֹא תִסְפְּיוּ לְעַמֹּד:</p> <p style="text-align: right;">... ..</p> <p style="text-align: right;">וַיֵּצֵא מֹשֶׁה מֵעַם פַּרְעֹה אֶת-הָעִיר וַיִּפְרֹשׂ כַּפָּיו אֶל-ה' וַיִּחַדְּלוּ הַקְּלוֹת וַהֲבַרְדַּד וּמָטֵר לֹא-נָתַד אַרְצָה:</p>

34. But when Pharaoh saw that the rain and the hail and the thunder had ceased, he became stubborn and reverted to his guilty ways, as did his courtiers.

וַיֵּרָא פַרְעֹה כִּי־חָלַל הַמָּטֶר וְהַכֶּרֶד
וְהַקִּלְתַּת וַיִּסָּף לַחֲטָא וַיִּכְבַּד לִבּוֹ הוּא
וְעַבְדָּיו:

35. So Pharaoh's heart stiffened and he would not let the Israelites go, just as Adonai had foretold through Moses.

וַיִּחְזַק לֵב פַרְעֹה וְלֹא שָׁלַח אֶת־בְּנֵי
יִשְׂרָאֵל כַּאֲשֶׁר דִּבֶּר ה' בְּיַד־מֹשֶׁה:

Genesis 44:32 - 45:2 and Genesis 50:17-18

44:32. Now your servant [I, Judah] has pledged himself for the boy to my father, saying, 'If I do not bring him back to you, I shall stand guilty before my father forever.'

כִּי עֲבָדְךָ עָרַב אֶת־הַנֶּעֱר מֵעַם אָבִי
לֵאמֹר אִם־לֹא אָבִיאֲנֹו אֵלֶיךָ וְחָטַאתִי
לְאָבִי כָל־הַיָּמִים:

33. Therefore, please let your servant [me] remain as a slave to my lord [you, Joseph] instead of the boy, and let the boy go back with his brothers.

וְעַתָּה יֵשְׁבֶנָּה עֲבָדְךָ תַּחַת הַנֶּעֱר עֲבָד
לְאֹדְנִי וְהַנֶּעֱר יֵעַל עִם־אָחָיו:

34. For how can I go back to my father unless the boy is with me? Let me not be witness to the woe that would overtake my father!"

כִּי־אִיךָ אֶעֱלֶה אֶל־אָבִי וְהַנֶּעֱר אֵינְנֹו
אִתִּי כִּן אֶרְאֶה כְרָע אֲשֶׁר יִמָּצָא
אֶת־אָבִי:

45:1. Joseph could no longer control himself before all his attendants, and he cried out, "Have everyone withdraw from me!" So there was no one else about when Joseph made himself known to his brothers.

וְלֹא־יָכַל יוֹסֵף לְהִתְאַפֵּק לְכָל הַנֹּצְצִים
עָלָיו וַיִּקְרָא הוֹצִיאוּ כָל־אִישׁ מֵעִלָּי
וְלֹא־עָמַד אִישׁ אִתּוֹ בְּהִתְוַדַּע יוֹסֵף
אֶל־אָחָיו:

2. His sobs were so loud that the Egyptians could hear, and so the news reached Pharaoh's palace.

וַיִּתֵּן אֶת־קוֹלוֹ בְּבָכִי וַיִּשְׁמְעוּ מִצְרַיִם
וַיִּשְׁמַע בַּיִת פַּרְעֹה:

...

...

50:17. "... please forgive the offense of the servants of the God of your father." And Joseph was in tears as they spoke to him.

... וְעַתָּה שְׂא נָא לִפְשַׁע עַבְדֵי אֱלֹהֵי
אָבִיךָ וַיִּבְכֶּה יוֹסֵף בְּדַבְרָם אֵלָיו:

18. His brothers went to him themselves, flung themselves before him, and said, "We are prepared to be your slaves."

וַיֵּלְכוּ גַם־אָחָיו וַיִּפְּלוּ לְפָנָיו וַיֹּאמְרוּ
הֲנֵנּוּ לָךְ לְעַבְדִּים:

