

Dor Hadash High Holidays 5781

Questions from Reb Ezra

Rosh Hashanah

How do I listen in my life? How can I be a better listener to what is truly important?

What is one reason it's hard to do *teshuva* work?

How often do we make space in our lives for the invisible?

Who else feels like 5780 should be apologizing to us?

Yom Kippur

What are your doorways to *teshuva*?

In which contexts of your life are you more ripe for *teshuva* possibilities?

The first question in the Torah G-d asks Adam, “*Ayeka?*” Where are you? It's not a geographical question. G-d knew *where* Adam was. The question goes deeper. *Ayeka*: Where am I at this moment in the story of my life?

What we have been practicing all these years of deathbed ritual drama is not how to die—but how to live once we have stared down the abyss.

And what lesson could be more important this year?

What do I have to say about G-d these days? Or what do I have to say *to* G-d these days? What kind of metaphors about the living energy of the universe speak to you these days?

Shema Koleynu: hear our voices. Which voices? The loudest voice? The quietest? The most sincere voice? Our most stressed out voice? The most indignant voice? The voice of reason? Compassion? The voice of shame and regret? Here is my question for this moment: What is the voice inside of you that needs expression?

How can we pray like the people watching the high priest 2000 years ago? How can our prayer experience merit being one of the foundational pillars of the world? How do we even start that conversation?

My question is, as we prepare to hear the *Unetane Tokef*, in terms of the climate catastrophe that's already here: how do we reimagine a new normal?

Where is the narrow bridge in your lives?

What is a belief about yourself that you'd like to shake?

What connects you to this community, group of worshippers? And what might distance or separate you?

Avinu Malkeynu: How can we be *this* smart and *this* lost? Where is our collective desire for true wisdom and why has it not manifested more coherently? My final question is the same question the Psalms ask, “From where will our help come?” *M'ayin Yavoh Ezri*. *Avinu Malkeynu*: from where will our help come? Where are we, really, in our collective story?