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Attachment:
Subject : a sweet, loving year.... *RH*
----- Message Text -----

Given recent events, this year seems especially important to honor the spiritual intent of the Holy Days, and to allow ourselves to deepen and feel blessed by the closeness and love of our family.

Some meanings of the holidays for me, this year:

1) ORDER OUT OF CHAOS...TOWARD CREATIVE NEW BEGINNINGS

Rosh Hashannah symbolizes the beginning of the world, when all was chaos....from that chaos, creative order began to emerge. On an individual level, each of us can look at our lives, and see if there isn't some small (!?) area where we feel a little chaos! Rather than be fearful or upset, we can affirm the healing and creative and hopeful potential which that confusion represents. We can also pray that the same may be true on the global level.

2) SELF-REFLECTION....TOSsing AWAY UNDESIRABLE HAIBTS..

the ten day period between Rosh HaShannah and Yom Kippur are an opportunity to examine ourselves, and to "toss" (taslich) some of our less desirable habits away --symbolically into a body of water...symbolically cleansing ourselves and preparing to move forward

3) A SWEET YEAR...EAT AN APPLE DIPPED IN HONEY! Even in difficult times, it is important to see and affirm the beauty around us, and to be optimistic....the custom of eating an apple dipped in honey is a way of enjoying that which is sweet and good now, and of wishing those blessings to each other, and for the world in the year to come. *circle*

4) FORGIVENESS. i see this as a time to ask forgiveness from those we have hurt, intentionally and unintentionally, by our thoughts, words, and deeds. It also involves our extending forgiveness to those whom we have perceived have hurt us. Finally, i believe it also involves forgiving ourselves for our less desirable habits, and for hurt we know we may have caused both ourselves and others. Forgiveness can be a very loving, compassionate act.....

5) DAYS OF AWE....the ten days between rosh hashanna and yom kippur are called yamim nora'im--days of awe. These are very special and holy days....keep your eyes, ears, and senses open to the possibility and

feelings of awe which may occur during this time....seeing the holy and sacred in as much as we can in the people, environment, "godly" acts of healing....around us

Wishing you all a year of health, love, peace, joy, and compassion

"papa" deane

(healing to find some more sense - those things down side)

My own approach to Judaism (re Teshuvah): return

is more inside/out. I've never been much of a textual person per se, and am even less so now. For me, Teshuvah is a feeling tone word, with less emphasis on the "repentance" and more on the "return" to God. (I recall, I think, that the word in Hebrew is now sometimes used in the sense of "returning a phone call!" I kind of like that---hearing, and returning through meditation and prayer, calls to God! The repentance, then, for me, becomes "accepting, asking forgiveness for, and softly trying to improve those "thoughts, words, or deeds" where I have hurt others, intentionally, and or unintentionally, by my thought, words or deeds."

(asking forgiveness of others in my heart, or directly); and forgiving myself for hurts which I've caused myself,by thought, words, or deed. The feeling tone, then is one of touching, feeling touched by "god's heart"--- a kind of openness and clarity, and softness I can clearly feel.

story, on p.22,

----- appreciate the

- > exemplifying the desire to return and would like to locate more. What texts
- > in particular helped clarify your own understanding of "teshuvah"? NICE QUESTION, I ACTUALLY DON'T KNOW! I GUESS LIKE THE FINGER POINTING TO THE MOON, I'VE LOOKED AT THE MOON, AND FOUND THE FINGER NO LONGER HELPFUL (EXCEPT FOR MOVING STORIES OF PEOPLE'S RETURN, ETC)
- > Sketchily, my limited understanding is that the final goal is cleaving to God
- > or having "right relationship" with God. LOVELY In order to attain that kind of
- > relationship, one has to engage in repentance for having indulged the "yetzer
- > hara" and committed such wrongs as "lashon hara" and others, YES, BUT AS SUGGESTED ABOVE, I'M NOT MUCH ON THE OH MY GOD WHAT A POOR BAD PERSON I AM IMPETUS FOR REPENTANCE....!!! and to perform,
- > preferably with "borei..."

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D - this is terrific. I really appreciate the distinction you're making between repentance and return - both are important but I too like the emphasis on "returning the phone call." Through the forgiveness prayers, you cover repentance and perhaps make it possible for the return to occur on a daily basis. How lovely! See you tonight, Love ya, J