

Torah Tidbits from Rabbi Larry Moldo:

[Some thoughts on the connection this year between the High Holiday season and current events.]

I am the only one I can do Teshuvah for.

I can only seek forgiveness for those things which I personally have done, and I can only seek it from those people whom I have wronged.

I should not infantilize others by deciding for them what wrongs have been inflicted upon them or by taking actions based on my suffering what I imagine to be their pain.

I may not forgive a person if I have not been the one to suffer from their actions.

I should always remember that my first glance is going to be filtered through the lens of my personal history, so it will often be wrong. [All dogs appear to be Cujo in my sight at first - and some of them are actually dangerous.] Therefore it is only after the second glance or beyond that I should make any kind of fact based judgment that involves anything more than basic Arithmetic.

I am responsible for the choices that I make. Sometimes I am even responsible for the effects of those choices.

I am aware that abstract words, such as those above, may be used by both sides of most disagreements as proving their particular points. When my words are used to make positive changes within an individual, then they are used as meant. When my words are used to try and make other people change, then they are being misused.