

The Narrow Bridge

גשר צר מאוד

INSPIRATIONAL QUOTES

Short Quotes from Various Tzaddikim - Week 149

To join our Whatsapp group for daily messages, contact us at 845-641-2648

רפואה שלמה פעסל בת גאלדא / לזכות חילינו

In every sport, even the greatest legends miss far more than they succeed. Baseball's greatest hitter, Ty Cobb, retired with a .366 batting average – which means he failed almost two-thirds of the time. In the NBA, DeAndre Jordan, the most accurate high-volume shooter in league history, made about 67% of his shots – amazing, yet still nowhere near perfection. In the NHL, one of the most precise scorers ever, Craig Simpson, scored on average roughly 23% of his shots. These are the best of the best, yet they all live in a world where failure is the majority experience.

So what does that mean for us? It means that if you're "getting it right" only half the time – if 50% of your choices, habits, or efforts land in the win column – you're already performing at a level better than the most impressive athletes of all time. A 50% success rate in life's spiritual, emotional, or personal growth arenas is astonishing. In sports, that would break every record ever set.

We often judge ourselves too harshly, expecting perfection, when even the most elite, highly trained professionals succeed far less than we imagine. No player is flawless. Hall of Famers miss the mark more often than not, but that doesn't stop them from showing up, and it doesn't stop them from taking their next shot.

Imagine looking at your life like a stat sheet. Every good choice, every moment of restraint, every day you try again – that's another at-bat, another shot taken, another field goal attempt. If you show up with heart and effort, you're already playing at a superstar level. And if half of your attempts turn into something good? You're outperforming the legends. You're living at a percentage that would earn you championships, MVP awards, and a place in the record books.

Don't dismiss your progress. Celebrate every win.

The greatest players in history built their legacy on persistence, not perfection. And you're doing the same. Even a 30-50% success rate in real life means you're not just doing okay – you're performing at Hall of Fame levels.

INSPIRED BY THE TEACHINGS OF RABBI HILLEL EISENBERG

One cold night, a traveler found himself lost in a thick fog. The path ahead seemed invisible, every step filled with uncertainty. All he carried was a small lantern whose dim glow reached only a few feet forward. He wished it were brighter. He wished he could see the entire road at once.

But he had no choice. He took a small step, guided only by the small light he had. And when he stepped forward, the light moved with him, revealing the next few feet. Then the next. And then the next. Eventually, step by step, he made his way out of the fog.

When he finally reached clear ground, he looked back in amazement at how far he had come – never seeing more than the next few steps but trusting the lantern nonetheless. It hadn't shown him the whole journey, only the part he needed in each moment.

Life rarely shows us the entire path ahead. We often want clarity, certainty, and the comfort of knowing everything in advance – but most of the time, we only get enough light to take the next step. It can feel frightening and unnerving, but it's also how growth works.

If we wait until we see the entire road, we may stand frozen in uncertainty.

But when we start walking with the little clarity we do have, the next piece of the path appears.

Courage isn't about knowing every twist and turn on the road ahead; it's about moving forward despite not knowing.

Sometimes, major breakthroughs begin with a small, imperfect step taken in the dark. Trust the small lantern you've been given – your intuition, your values, your inner sense of direction. It may not be bright enough to illuminate the entire future, but it's always enough to guide you through the moment you're in.

Your life unfolds one step at a time. Keep moving forward even when the path is unclear, and the fog will part as you go.

INSPIRED BY THE TEACHINGS OF REBBE NACHMAN (1772-1810)

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שלמה פסל בת גאלדא / לזכות חילינו

*You may be standing next to someone who is trying their best not to fall apart.
Whatever you do today, do it with kindness.*

INSPIRED BY THE TEACHINGS OF REBBE NACHMAN (1772-1810)

*A water carrier traveled each day from the river to his home carrying two clay pots on a pole across his shoulders.
One pot was perfect. The other had cracks along its side. Every day, the cracked pot delivered only half the water.
After years of this, the cracked pot felt deep shame over its perceived failure.*

*One day, the cracked pot apologized to the carrier. "I'm so sorry," it said. "I waste your time. I lose so much water.
You work hard, and I give you so little." The carrier listened gently and invited the pot to look along the path.
One side was bare; the other was lined with beautiful flowers.*

*"These flowers grow on your side," he explained. "I planted seeds there because I knew you leaked water.
Every day, without trying, you watered them. Without your cracks, there would be no flowers."*

The pot fell silent. For the first time, it realized its flaw was not a failure but a blessing.

*We all carry parts of ourselves we wish were different – flaws, insecurities, mistakes we replay over and over.
It's easy to believe that these "cracks" make us less valuable or less capable than others.
But what we often fail to see is how those very imperfections allow us to bring something unique into the world.
Like the cracked pot watering flowers without realizing it, you may be creating beauty without even knowing.*

*Your struggles can make you more compassionate. Your brokenness can make you more real. Your challenges can teach you to
notice what others overlook. The areas where you struggle most are the exact areas where you can help others heal. What you see
as weakness may be precisely what allows you to help someone else, soften someone's pain, or brighten someone's path.*

*Instead of hiding them or feeling ashamed because of them, understand that these very cracks allow your light to shine through.
They create opportunities for kindness, creativity, growth, and connection. Imperfection doesn't disqualify you – it equips you.
Always know that you carry tremendous value – not in spite of your flaws, but because of them.*

INSPIRED BY THE TEACHINGS OF THE LUBAVITCHER REBBE, RABBI MENACHEM MENDEL SCHNEERSON (1902-1994)

*A smile is contagious.
Be the one who starts the outbreak.*

BASED ON THE TEACHINGS OF RABBI EPHRAIM MIRVIS