

The Narrow Bridge

גשר צר מאוד

INSPIRATIONAL QUOTES

Short Quotes from Various Tzaddikim - Week 150

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

רפואה שלמה פעסל בת גאלדא / לזכות חילינו

Make sure to include yourself in the list of things you need to take care of this week.

BASED ON THE TEACHINGS OF HILLEL HAZAKEIN (MIDRASH, VAYIKRA RABBAH 34:3)

A candle maker hired a young boy to help pour wax and trim wicks.

The boy was enthusiastic but clumsy, constantly spilling wax and scraping molds.

After a particularly messy day, he apologized, saying, "Maybe I'm not cut out for this."

The candle maker shook his head. "You're judging the candle before the flame ever touches it."

The next morning, the candle maker gathered all the boy's crooked, uneven candles and lit them one by one.

To the boy's surprise, every single one burned steadily and brightly. Some even created softer or wider glows because of their unique shapes. "See?" the candle maker said. "A candle's purpose is not to be perfect – it's to give light."

The boy watched the candles flickering, each one slightly different but all shining the same warm glow.

Their uneven forms didn't make them weaker; they gave each candle a light that shimmered in its own distinct way.

"I thought the flaws would make them burn wrong," he said. The candle maker smiled.

"Flaws don't stop a candle from shining. And they don't stop people either."

From that day on, the boy worked with new confidence,

knowing that what mattered wasn't flawless wax, but the light it would eventually give.

This story teaches that our imperfections don't disqualify us, and they don't cancel our ability to shine.

In fact, our differences often allow our light to shine in ways no one else's can.

We spend so much time worrying about being polished – socially, emotionally, spiritually – that we forget the purpose of the soul is not to appear perfect but to illuminate, to make the world a bit brighter.

Just like the candles, people are shaped unevenly by life. Some experiences bend us, soften us, or leave marks.

Yet none of that diminishes the flame we hold inside. Sometimes the very dents and curves of our lives become the channels through which our unique warmth comes through strongest.

The boy only saw his mistakes, never the purpose behind them. We often do the same – focusing on the spilled wax instead of the light we're capable of offering. When we look at ourselves through a narrow lens,

we underestimate our own potential. But the candle maker gives the truest reassurance –

our worth is defined not by how perfectly we're shaped, but by the light we can offer.

And often, it's the uniquely shaped candles that create the most unforgettable glow.

INSPIRED BY THE TEACHINGS OF THE BAAL SHEM TOV (1698-1760)



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שלמה פעסל בת גאלדא / לזכות חילינו

Sometimes a person needs to lose themselves in order to truly find themselves. Always remember that the past is a place of reference, not a place of residence; it carries lessons, not limitations. Don't let yesterday's shadows block tomorrow's light – your next move is far more important than your last mistake.

There's a reason the rear view mirror is so small and the windshield is so big – what matters most is not where you've been, but where you choose to go from here. The future is waiting with open arms. Lift your eyes and keep moving forward knowing that the future is not bound by yesterday but built by the steps you take today.

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

It's okay if you're not okay. You are not weak for feeling lost or tired – you're human. What matters is that even when you fall apart, there's something deep inside telling you to try again tomorrow. That's real strength.

Not all progress is visible, and not all growth is loud. Sometimes the most profound transformation happens in the quietest moments, when you're simply holding on, breathing through, and choosing to hope one more time.

But know this: your resilience is being noticed, and your patience will be rewarded. What feels invisible now is quietly preparing tomorrow's breakthroughs. Keep going, even when the road feels endless; because every small act of holding on is carrying you closer to the place where everything begins to make sense.

INSPIRED BY THE TEACHINGS OF RABBI EFREM GOLDBERG

True strength isn't about never pausing – it's about knowing when to. Even the strongest hearts get tired, and even the fiercest lion knows when to rest in the shade.

Shabbos is that sacred stillness, a weekly moment to stop and exhale, a chance to lay down what we've been carrying. It reminds us that rest is not optional; it is holy. In its calm shade, we can stop, breathe deep, and find the strength to rise again ready for whatever comes next.

INSPIRED BY THE TEACHINGS OF RABBI JONATHAN SACKS (1948-2020)