



Healing Together: How Those in Trauma Provide Care for Others

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Prior to coming to JTS, Rabbi Kalish taught clinical pastoral education (CPE) at New York–Presbyterian Hospital (NYP) to students from diverse religious, denominational, national, and cultural backgrounds. Rabbi Kalish has served on the Interprofessional Education Faculty at Columbia University Medical Center, where she has taught a course, Spirituality and Healthcare, to students in diverse healthcare educational programs. She has taught chaplaincy and pastoral care courses and programs for the Academy for Jewish Religion, Yeshivat Chovevei Torah, Yeshivat Maharat, and JTS.

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Rabbi Annabelle Herciger-Tenzer offers spiritual care to patients, families, and staff at Hadassah Hospital in Ein Kerem. She previously worked at the hospice of the French Hospital in Jerusalem, supporting individuals and families at life's most tender moments. Ordained as Rabbi at the Schechter Institute in Jerusalem where she certified in spiritual care, she offers an approach grounded in Jewish tradition and enriched by decades of personal and professional experience.

Genesis Rabbah 22:9

בי שמעון בר יוחאי אמר: דומה הדבר לשני לוחמים שנכנסו לפני הקיסר, אילו רצה להפריד ביניהם, היה מפריד, ולא הפריד. האחד קם והרג את חברו

Rabbi Shimon bar Yochai said: It is like two gladiators who entered before the Caesar. If he wanted to separate them, he could have, but he did not. One rose and killed the other.

The text refers to the murder of Abel by Cain. It emphasizes God's role in the murder of Cain and Abel by comparing God to a Roman Caesar observing gladiators. This analogy suggests that, like a Caesar who could intervene in a gladiatorial fight but chooses not to, God allowed Cain to kill Abel. This comparison raises questions about divine justice and offers a possibility to voice whatever feelings one might have towards God, stressing that disappointment, anger and frustration are legitimate feelings.

Intention

By Rabbi Annabelle Tenzer for Knesset Harabanim (the Rabbinical Assembly of the Masorti Movement)

Master of the Universe,

In these days of darkness and uncertainty, days filled with worry for the fate of our kidnapped brothers and sisters – we turn to You in supplication:

Restore the captivity of Your people; redeem our sons and daughters in peace.

“For behold, days are coming – declares the Lord – when I will restore the fortunes of My people Israel and Judah, and I will bring them back to the land that I gave their fathers, and they shall possess it.”

Jeremiah 30:3

Strengthen the wounded, the families, and all the people who dwell in Zion and the Diaspora.

Instill in our hearts hope, love, and light,

And imbue our leaders with understanding, wise counsel, and compassion,

So that the following verse may be fulfilled in us:

“For He has not despised nor abhorred the suffering of the afflicted one, and He has not hidden His face from him; but when he cried out to Him, He listened.”

Psalms 22:25