

Ultimate Parsha continued...

Certainly the circle of life was evident; I hoped the eight-day-old boy would accomplish as much in his life and be as beloved as the 85-year-old man, and prayed that the young couple being married would produce children who would be equally accomplished. But there was more--I felt inspired by the words of the children and grandchildren at the funeral, believed that the order of events was no mistake, and felt like a window of opportunity had been opened at the funeral, much like during Yom Kippur.

The Torah reading for Yom Kippur begins "Hashem spoke to Moshe after the death of Aharon's two sons..." What is the connection between the death of Aharon's sons and Yom Kippur? Meshech Chochmah says that the righteous souls in Shamayim (Heaven) rejoice at being joined by two of their own, and this positive feeling can carry over and be attributed to those surviving the departed. Thus the death of Aharon's sons, like Yom Kippur, can bring atonement.

As we approach Yom Kippur, I pray that we all seize the opportunity for atonement presented to us.

Paul S. Oberman

