

L.I.L.A.C.

Lessons I Learned Amid Corona

My Dearest Students,

When I think back to January of this year, I think of another world. A world that was. A life very different than we are living today. A life consumed with.... what? I don't know.... I just don't know....

In March, life as we knew it came to a grinding halt, and we were forced to face ourselves in a way like never before.

You know, I was thinking the other day, about our lessons in Navi. During the time of the Melachim, the Yidden were sinking lower and lower, falling into the abyss of Avoda Zarah, drifting farther and farther away from what should have been their primary focus, serving Hashem! Can you imagine? Serving idols?? Not something we can relate to today. Or can we? Think about it...Avoda Zara"the worship of other". The worship of something *other* than Hashem. Does it have to be only idols?

We just finished learning about the terrible famine HKBH brought upon Bnei Yisroel, meant to waken them up from their slumber, meant to rattle them into reality! The Ribono Shel Olam was Kavyochol saying "Remember Me! Turn to Me! Don't forget Me! Don't forget your purpose here! Don't forget to serve *ME!*"

The last two and a half months have been so difficult. We mourn and share the pain of so many people who have lost loved ones, who have lost their livelihood, and who have suffered terrible loneliness. We too have suffered on our own personal levels. But my dear students, we know without uncertainty, that EVERYTHING Hashem does is good.

Everything. Even if it is hard, even if it is painful.

With all the difficulties we have been through, it is not hard to see that this has been the greatest gift Hakodosh Boruch Hu has given us. We were finally forced to FOCUS. We were forced by our Loving Father to stop and THINK. We were forced to live with ourselves, to face ourselves, to look inward, and to finally try to improve ourselves. We were forced to think, and talk, and beg the Ribono Shel Olam like we never did before. We were forced, because HKBH knew, that we could never do it ourselves. He knew that we were too consumed with the race of the world, with serving something *other* than Him. And in His ultimate kindness, because of His never-ending love for each one of us, He gave us this gift. "Remember Me, don't forget Me, don't forget to serve *ME!*".

Time is moving on.....Spring has arrived, the trees are in full bloom, the flowers have burst forth from the ground. Renewal and hope is in the air. With this hope, the Tefilah lingers on our lips, that HKBH, will bring Yeshuos and Refuos to us all, and that these times will be a thing of the past. But my dear girls, the lessons of what we have learned, are lessons we hope will remain with us forever!

As we discussed, 10A and 10D, will be starting LILACS. LILACS is an initiative, that encourages hope, and most important the "Lessons I Learned Amid Corona", the commitment to forever remember the growth we are experiencing on so many levels during this time.

Please take a moment to think about how you grew in your Avodas Hashem during this time and write it down on the beautiful page Shani Poretsky designed. You can decide to frame it and hang it on your wall or put it safely away in a drawer. In one year from now, and then in two or three or ten, you will be able to look back and remember the Chesed amidst the Din, the kindness that Hashem granted you to grow in your Avodas Hashem and develop yourself like never before. And just in case you forget the things you changed in your life; this will be a reminder to you forever.

Best wishes for a beautiful Yom Tov.
All my love, Mrs. Hendler

