

# Some Thoughts on the “Second Wave” of Corona.

B’Chasdei Hashem, even if it is indeed a “second wave” that we are witnessing in some areas, it is less severe than the first and may it be the will of Hashem that Acheinu Bnei Yisroel be protected and remain safe and unharmed.

Why the second wave, though?

## What is Hashem telling us?

Rabbeinu Yonah (Shaarei Teshuva, Sha’ar 2:3) writes that when man sins against Hashem and is punished, **there are two purpose for this Heavenly punishment.**

One, is to **effect atonement for the sin**, and to erase - via Teshuva - the negative effects of the sin. Just as when one is physically ill, he needs a physical cure, so too when one is spiritually ill, he needs a spiritual cure. This is a tremendous Rachamim of Hashem that some physical punishment in this world can erase sins that would otherwise have required much more painful punishment in gehinom. (See Mesilas Yesharim Perek 4 for more about this)

The second purpose of Heavenly discipline, continues Rabbeinu Yonah, is as **a reminder, or a wake-up call of sorts**, to prompt us to refrain from sinning, and to prompt us to do Teshuva.

If one does not get the Heavenly message, and refuses to acknowledge the Divine Mussar, not only will he continue to bear the weight of his sins and not have them atoned for, he will be doubly punished **for failing to get the message!**

The first wave of Corona, which brought with it much pain and tragedy R”L, also brought with it a positive wave of Teshuva. People are davening better, people are learning more Torah, people are yearning for Mashiach, people are downsizing their extravagant lifestyles, people are treating each other better, being more careful with what comes out of their mouths etc. So many Yidden, of all backgrounds, of all ages, of all types, have gotten Hashem’s message! They have accepted Hashem’s mussar and made positive changes in their lives. **Ashreichem!**

This second wave of Corona, perhaps, is here to remind us to not forget the Heavenly message that we accepted, to not “go back to normal” when things seem to be stabilizing.

The second wave of Corona, perhaps, is addressing those who are stubbornly refusing to accept the Godly mussar that the first wave brought.

This second wave of Corona, perhaps, is Hashem’s way of prodding us to retain our spiritual growth, and not allow our hearts to revert back to stone.

This second wave of Corona, perhaps, is Hashem giving us a second chance to do what’s right, or at least solidify the good things we began to do before things started feeling “Normal” again.

Rabbeinu Yonah adds (in Shaar 2:4) that when one does accept Hashem’s chastisement, and adjusts his ways properly, he should rejoice in the punishments received, and thank Hashem for them, as their benefits for him are tremendous, no different than any other successes that Hashem affords him!

**Perhaps the second wave of Corona is Hashem’s way of communicating with us that we should accept His decree as the second, less harsh, reason of Rabbeinu Yonah, and not, Chas V’Shalom, need any more Yesurim attributed to the first, more severe, reason.**

Perhaps.

**Definitely something to think about.**