



Carnegie Shul Chatter

November 14, 2019



Light Candles 4:45pm Shabbat Services 9:20 am

Loss — a Comforting Explanation

One thing I must say about Chabad: they seem to have a good explanation for everything.

Sadly, many of us have experienced the death of a loved one that occurred too soon. For some it was a parent, my mom was just 47. For others it might have been a spouse, or a child, or a niece, a nephew, a cousin, or a friend. And when it happens, we ask why, why does God allow this to happen? Why does an infant who has never done anything wrong die? What possible reason can there be?

Below is what chabad.org has to say on the topic in a Q&A-type column that appears regularly on the website.

The Circle of Life

This year I have seen far too many friends and relatives pass away. I know that it is part of the circle of life, yet it still stings to lose someone you love.

This week, a man who brought much happiness to all who knew him, Leon Zionts, passed away.

Leon wasn't a youngster, but he wasn't old by today's standards either. He was just 61 years old. He died of pancreatic cancer, not a very pleasant way to go.

So why Leon?

You probably remember Leon for that incredible concert he gave in our shul on November 8, 2015. His singing brought so much joy into so many lives. He helped many aspiring performers to find their way through the theater company that he founded, Front Porch Theatricals.

His funeral sold out the house at Schugars. It was SRO.

But now Leon is gone.

His soul was only on loan to us. Now it is back with the angels and his Creator.

Leon, your memory will always be a blessing for us. Rest in peace my friend.

Why Do Some of the Best Die Young?

By Aron Moss



Question of the Week:

I don't understand. Why do the good die young? I have lost a friend who was the best person I know. And I can think of plenty of not-so-good people who are living it up. Where is the justice? Can you make any sense of this upside down world?

Answer:

Let me tell you a story.

Where is the justice? A great debate once raged in heaven. It was over a most beautiful and precious new soul that G d had created. The angels debated what should be done with this soul. One group of angels demanded that this soul remain in heaven. "She is too pure, too holy to face the ugliness of the lowly world," they said. "Who knows what will happen to her in a world of temptation and evil. This soul must stay with us here."

But the other group of angels said the exact opposite: "Indeed this soul glows with a unique divine glow. But for that very reason she must go down to earth. For imagine the beauty and goodness this soul can bring to a dark world. What good is there in keeping such a soul in heaven? Let her descend to earth and shine her light there."

And so they argued back and forth, each side unshakable in their view. Until it became clear that they could not resolve the issue themselves, they needed a Higher Authority. The case was brought before G d Almighty. The angels stated their arguments before the heavenly court. G d listened to the two opinions -the first group of angels arguing that this unspoiled soul is too holy to be plunged into the lowly world, the second countering that the world needs such souls more than anything.

And this was G d's response:

"Indeed, it is sad to send such an immaculate soul into such a dark world. But this is My will. I only created darkness so souls like this one can transform darkness into light. The whole purpose of creation was that the lowly world be refined by the good deeds of mortal human beings. This cannot be achieved by souls in heaven. It can only be achieved through souls in bodies. And so even this most perfect and pure soul must descend to earth."



The first group of angels, who requested for the soul to remain in heaven, were disappointed. They couldn't fathom how such a spiritual being could be expected to survive such a physical world. G d turned to them and said, "As for your request to keep this soul up here, I will grant it partially. Though she must leave us and go down to earth, it will not be long before she will return to us. Her sojourn on earth will be brief. Such a brilliant soul will not need long to fulfil her mission. Soon she will be free to come back to heaven."

Every day that she is on earth is a blessing. G d then turned to the second group and asked, "Are you satisfied with that? Do you accept that this soul can only be on earth for a limited time?"

The angels replied, "Yes we do. Every day that she is on earth is a blessing."

When a loved one passes away, we feel we have lost something precious. We are left with a gaping hole in our heart, and we often wonder why they were taken away from us. But at the same time we can be grateful for the very fact that they were given to us in the first place. We are blessed to have such beautiful souls in our lives. The world is privileged to have such heavenly guests come down on earth. And even if it can only be for a short while, we will take whatever we can get.

In time all souls will be reunited. In the meantime, let us be thankful for the gift of every day

Aron Moss is rabbi of the Nefesh Community in Sydney, Australia, and is a frequent contributor to Chabad.org.



Yahrzeit Plaques

Commemorate a loved one by dedicating a yahrzeit plaque in his or her memory at the Carnegie Shul. These beautiful plaques, mounted on the sanctuary walls, are lit on the loved one's yahrzeit, Yom Kippur, and days when Yizkor is recited. The names are also read aloud from the Bimah during services on the Sabbath of the yahrzeit and on Yom Kippur. To purchase a plaque, for only \$175, please email Mike Roteman at mrmike7777@yahoo.com.



Sponsor a Kiddush



Please consider sponsoring a Kiddush in honor or in memory of a loved one, for only \$36. Your sponsorship will be announced from the bimah and in the weekly Chatter. To sponsor a Kiddush, email mrmike7777@yahoo.com.



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Learn more about what Pittsburgh’s response has been after the shooting at the Tree of Life building and the ways we have been able to learn best practices from other communities.

We will also discuss and consider where the effects of such an event are felt in both predictable and unpredictable ways.

FREE & Open To The Community