

THE WEXNER FOUNDATION

THE LEADERSHIP OF TORAH

September 30, 2021 | Dr. Erica Brown | Intention. Separation. Creation. Evaluation.

Becca Thomas: Welcome! Thank you for joining us today for our first session in The Torah of Leadership series. All participants will be muted during the call, but feel free to post any questions in the chat. Learn more about Dr. Erica Brown here:

<https://gsehd.gwu.edu/directory/erica-brown>

Rebecca Gold: Same! I hope you are all well! Shana Tova!

Marci Dollinger: Shanah Tovah! Heading to NYC tomorrow for two weeks.

Elka Abrahamson: Amen!!

Angie Atkins, Director Wexner Heritage Alumni and Summits: That was from a very thoughtful dvar torah on the essence of the Shemita year by R. Aaron Finkelstein from 2015 which informed these remarks (and that I don't have time to properly attribute) -- You can read it here

https://www.sherithisrael.com/uploaded/pdf/pdfup_37.pdf?1456688751

Mojdeh Khaghan: 🙏 so grateful for this opportunity in every way

Barry Etra: I have missed this...

Angie Atkins, Director Wexner Heritage Alumni and Summits: Source sheet can be found here https://www.wexnerfoundation.org/wp-content/uploads/9-30_Brown-Gen.-1-Creation.pdf — and you can access it after the call (along with a recording of this session) in our leadership library on wexnerfoundation.org

Ariel Nelson: unicorn

Yael Bendat-Appell: flight, movement

Caryn Rosen Adelman: G-d chasing the birds and animals

Leora Zabusky: All the animals seem to be in distress

Cintra Pollack she/her: It's dark except for illuminated G-d

Vanessa Ressler, Miami WHP 11: Everything seems to be moving away from G-d with purpose and speed.

Marci Dollinger: Halo of light

Josh Weinberg: There is a vibe of "to the rescue!" Like he's gonna save the day and going into battle

Rachel Kest: they are flying / moving in the same direction

Shary Levitt: God seems to have the ability to fly - man does not

Debbie (she/her): They seem to be a group, going somewhere all together

ray silverstein: Light/Dark, Water/Land, Sky/Ground

iPad (12): G-d is old

Judy Oberlander: Three sections similar to a triptych

Jeni Friedman: Red is reserved for God alone

Fred Scherlinder Dobb: to state the obvious: G'd is an older white European man, much like the painter -- we're all created in G'd's image, but some images get indelibly associated more than others!

Elka Abrahamson: +1 Fred. And it is stunning to think about how much art informs our spiritual imaginations. Or stunts them.

Nina Bruder: Patterns: God said...

Shelly Kupfer: God created each day and it was good (until it was very good)

Nina Bruder: And God saw that it was good. And it was evening and it was day, Yom _.

Fred Scherlinder Dobb: Patterns: G'd is generative -- and/but passes that power along to Earth and Sea themselves (let the earth sprout forth...)

Nina Bruder: Lots of distinctions and seeming opposites

Goldie Lansky: Creation happens when God says

Shary Levitt: When God blesses them to be fertile and increase, God In a sense gives others the miracle of creation.

Vanessa Ressler, Miami WHP 11: We need to remove a part of ourselves (ex. Our ego) to be effective partners and leaders.

Leora Zabusky: We have to select what we want to do; we can't do everything (ie a process of trade offs)

Wendy Kesser: ...consistent with the principle of physics that energy is neither created nor destroyed. It is divided. As protons/electrons/neutrons

Caryn Rosen Adelman: creation is started from nothing but separation comes from something

Sue BermanKress (she/her): We have to separate ourselves to some extent to lead. We can't be "just another member of the group" if we want to be leaders. There is something lost in separating yourself from the group.

Maxine Schwartz: The hardest stage, no matter the initiative is putting yourself out there to be "judged"

Cintra Pollack she/her: In order to create something, you not only define what it is, but what it is not (scope, focus, etc.)

Yael Bendat-Appell: I'm moved by the original text. It seems that God's last stage of creation-- in this instance-- is blessing.

Sue BermanKress (she/her): 1) Bringing the topic to the group/board/org 2) Gaining buy-in for spending time and energy on the topic 3) Doing the work of changing the culture to incorporate this topic as a priority

Caryn Rosen Adelman: evaluate when to hand off because of success or failure

Susan Borison: Define roles of professionals vs lay leaders

Angie Atkins, Director Wexner Heritage Alumni and Summits: Inviting anyone who would like to share their specific answers with me to do so (and if you'd like to discuss further, I would love that)

Rabbi Paula Mack Drill: Almost impossible to evaluate Covid responses in community when there is only tohu u-vohu beneath our feet. Yet if we can evaluate as we go, we can glean lessons on our way.

Shelly Kupfer: What Covid initiatives have worked that are worth keeping post-covid?

ray silverstein: 3 stages: ideation —> Development/Implementation —> Assessment (Blessing?)

Jon Cardin: legislation to prohibit Anti-gay conversion therapy. I need to evaluate if the legislation worked and if the unintended consequences outweighed the effect of the law.

Sue BermanKress (she/her): Keeping the silver-lining lessons of what we learned during the pandemic. We want to shrug off the ways we've been doing things in the pandemic because they feel associated with Covid, but some of them have been creative and good and should stay with us.

Rebecca Gold: Thank you Erica! Feel blessed to learn with you!

Vanessa Ressler, Miami WHP 11: Macro challenge: What will congregational engagement look like in a post-covid (not that we are post yet) world? What sticks around from the last 18 mos? What from pre-covid remains and what needs to be totally re-envisioned?

Nina Bruder: But we do have a concept of 'Jakarta hatov' which reminds us to pause for moments of appreciation.

Sue BermanKress (she/her): Thank you for this bright spot in the week!

Shelly Kupfer: Wonderful as always Erica...

Vanessa Ressler, Miami WHP 11: Dr. Brown thank you!!!!

Gary Wingens: Thank you. Love that message.

Josh Weinberg: Awesome stuff - thanks!

Pete Federowicz: Thanks Erica.

Craig Levine (he-him): Toda raba, Angie and Erica.

Jon Cardin: Thank you!!

Roni Rubenstein: Thank you!

Marci Dollinger: Thank you!

00:51:14 Judy Oberlander: Thank you SO very much...a beautiful and most thoughtful start for the year!

Wendy Kesser: Erica, you are a sure thing. Thank you. 🙏

Rhona Fink: Thank you!

Elka Abrahamson: So good to have this model of Torah classes. Thank you

Ariel Nelson: Thank you everyone

Rachel Kest: thank you! was a wonderful shot of torah for the day