

Preparing Your Heart for the Days of Awe – Rosh HaShanah

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1. Existentialism and Logotherapy (*Man's Search for Ultimate Meaning*)
2. What is spiritual and transformative work? To have our lives be guided by the values of the Higher Self and the Soul

Higher Self – Love, Justice, Truth, Beauty, the Good, the Holy

Field of Consciousness – Ideally: Aware, Attuned, Adaptive, Accountable

Connected to Positive Ego States

“Ego Mind” – connected to negative ego-states

“Plastic” Unconscious Ego Self – Negative and Positive Ego States; the Yetzer Ha-Ra (destructive shape)

Unconscious - Archetypal Unconscious, the Soul – Values of the Higher Self, Purpose, Meaning

3. The Problem of Liturgy and Holy Texts – Theory of Interpretation

Myth, Symbol, the Arts (literature, poetry, cinema, music, art – the natural language of the soul, conveyors of meaning and truth.

Archetypal Study of Holy Texts - The Symbolic Nature of Consciousness

(Difficult texts: Ernst Cassirer, *An Essay on Man*, Susanne K. Langer, *Philosophy in a New Key*)

Bible – Archetypal Psychological Literature, Not Journalism

Liturgy is Poetry, Myth, Drama

4. The Problem of God – “I don’t believe in God”

Literary/Poetic Depictions of God

The Name (the conception of God that is meaningful to you - the “real” God)

5. The Myths and Symbols of Rosh Hashanah

The human condition (birth of the human being – ha-adam)

Teshuvah - Spiritual Growth

Shofar

The world of value (moral realism)

Texts –

Sin and Straying (the Yetzer Ha-Ra)

The story of Hagar (Genesis 21) – the compassion of “God.”

The Courtroom – “God’s” Judgment

The Binding of Isaac (Genesis 22) – the failure of “God.”

Teshuvah - Interpersonal repair