SESSION 5

IN BLESSED MEMORY OF AMIT TZUR

The Michael and Andrea Leven Family Foundation

LEGACIES INITIATIVE

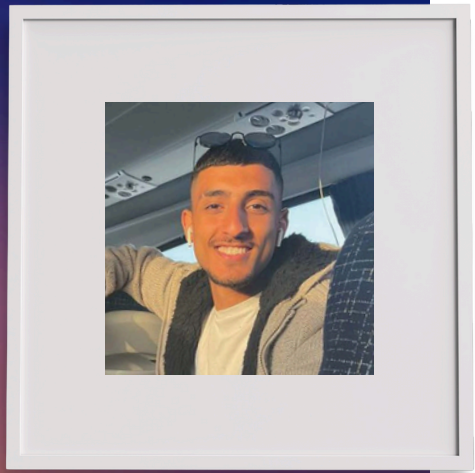
OLAMI MENTORSHIP

AMIT

On October 7th, Amit Tzur was stationed near the fence with Gaza. When the news started to trickle in about the horrific incursion, Amit and three other soldiers got into a vehicle and headed towards the Hamas terrorists. They successfully succeed in eliminating an entire platoon of terrorists. They then proceeded to another area that had been overrun by the Hamas terrorists. As they got closer they realized that they were vastly outnumbered. The driver of the vehicle protested their involvement stating that it was a suicide mission.

Amit and his two comrades insisted that they had no choice and that saving others was the highest priority even if they would ultimately pay the highest price. Their driver dropped them off and fled the scene while Amit and his brothers in arms engaged this massive group. They successfully eliminated hordes of the terrorists but ultimately paid the highest price.

Amit gave his life protecting the people that he loved, his fellow Israeli brothers and sisters and the land that he loved.



Amit's last few minutes of life really personified the short life that he led. Amit never wasted a second. Amit never wasted an opportunity. He lived a life that embraced every possibility. Who knows? Perhaps he had a premonition that he needed to accomplish as much as he could in the time that he had.

Amit's eagerness to accomplish manifested itself in his home as an incredibly dedicated son and brother always assisting his family and looking for opportunities to help. Amit also had an uncanny ability to use his boundless energy to energize others. As a kindergartener he would proactively seek out the kids in his class that were on the fringe and bring them into the action.

Amit's constant drive to excel led him to Nefesh Yehudi, Olami's Israel program, where he thirstily imbibed the Torah driven inspiration content that he accessed and quickly made it a part of his life.

In an effort to perpetuate Amit's life and legacy we will focus on his alacrity and eagerness to accomplish. Perhaps by reflecting on the important character traits of alacrity and ambition, we can re-energize our upcoming week and make small upgrades in our lives.

CAN YOU IDENTIFY WITH THIS CONCEPT?

(based on the book Taking Action by R. Zelig Pliskin)

"Often, the hardest part of taking action is actually getting started. The principle of inertia is that an object that is at rest will stay that way until it is acted upon by an outside force. This is a law of physics. A similar principle will apply to humans. When they are at rest, they need a special surge of energy to get started."

NOW THINK ABOUT THIS

Even so, the above is not really accurate. Human beings are really different from inanimate objects. An inanimate object cannot decide to move itself. A human being can think and can choose to take action. With your mind, you can choose to intensify your willpower and this will lead to taking even more action.

Here is why: "The Almighty gave you a body, which is subject to the laws of physics. However, your Creator also gave you a soul, which has free will to choose to take action in ways that are in line with the way the Creator wants you to take action."

Try to visualize this... Even when you are at rest and it's easy to remain at rest, you do not need an external force to cause you to move. You can choose to take action. The ability to choose what you will do at any given moment is a magnificent gift given to you by your Creator. Value the gift. Cherish it. Thank the Creator for the magnificent gift that you can utilize whenever you choose.

And finally something a bit deeper: When it comes to performing mitzvos or spiritual acts, there is an idea that one can live in the physical dimensions of space and time and be subject to them, part of them. Or one can live within them and yet transcend them. To do this, one must minimize the contact between oneself and the physical elements. In the time dimension, this is known as z'rizus – zeal or alacrity – in performing the Almighty's commandments.

LET'S GET PRACTICAL

Which areas in your life do you find yourself sluggish and slow? Which areas are you energized and raring to go? Why the disparity?

Here are a few ways to overcome laziness and add alacrity and energy to your day to day existence:

1. Don't expect a perfect outcome. "Don't let the perfect be the enemy of the good!"
2. Use positive self talk. Don't tell yourself there is no way I can get this done, tell yourself that I will figure out a way to make it happen!
3. Create a plan of action.
4. Set a manageable goal and reward yourself when you hit it!
5. Ask for help when you need it! Bringing a friend, a co-worker and of course a mentor into the equation can do wonders in getting you off of the couch and into action! (An Action Buddy)
6. Just do it! Stop analyzing!

Can the two of you identify one small task that you have not yet embraced and figure out a way to run with it?

BEING IN ACTION WAS SO IMPORTANT TO AMIT

As you take this week to upgrade your life by focusing on taking initiative, please **use this QR code or this link to send a message to Amit's family**.

It will mean the world to them!

JOIN US NOW

OLAMI.ORG/LEGACIES

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