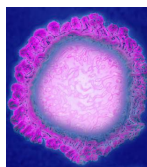


Torah Tidbits This 'n That

Phil's page



Is G-d Telling Us Something?

Before I address that question, look at the pictures, above: On the left is a drawing of a daffodil. Notice the crown-shaped part in the center of the petals. Some flowers have that. It is called a corona, because it resembles a crown. (Think coronation, crowning...) The photo in the center is of a total solar eclipse, when the crown-like envelope around the Sun is visible. Normally, the brightness of the Sun renders its corona invisible. On the right is a color-enhanced electron microscope of the coronavirus.

Many children have asked their parents, students - their teachers, shul-goers - their rabbis, people - each other - the question in the title, or some variation thereof.

Do we know why the coronavirus has become a pandemic, infecting over 330,000 (as of this writing) people and killing almost 15,000 people, worldwide?

I believe that no one can know why? Only a true prophet of G-d (which we don't have in our time) would be able to say KO AMAR HASHEM... (if G-d told

him and told him to tell us).

But that is NOT the question of the title. Is G-d telling us something?

WITHOUT A DOUBT!

What is He telling us? That's more like the previous question. And no one can answer that one with certainty.

In VIDUI (verbal confession), one of the sins we try to repent is KISHINU OREF. We have become stubborn (stiff-necked). Many commentaries define being stubborn as refusing to accept the idea that there is a Divine message in tragedies that befall us - as individual or as a whole.

So where does this leave us?

When Amalek first attacked Bnei Yisrael a number of weeks after we left Egypt and had not yet arrived at Har Sinai, we defended ourselves on two main fronts. Moshe told Yehoshua to select an army to fight. Moshe, with Aharon and Chur, ascended an overlooking hilltop and Moshe beseeched G-d for His salvation.

The Mishna (R"H 3:8) asks if Moshe's hands raised heavenward can determine the results of the war. The answer is that prayer must be combined with stronger commitment to G-d (via T'shuva - ed).

The battle against the coronavirus pandemic is fought by an army of medical personnel, scientists, and governments. Our part in the battle is following the guidelines and rules, prayer and T'shuva, and becoming better people and better Jews.