

Thank G-d for the Recession

By Ruth Amber Gristak

The recession is the best thing that ever happened to America. *Why?* These economically challenging times have broken the egos of the haughty and wedged into the lives of those who merely pass their days with complacency. The recession reminds every person, rich and poor, that taking the strengths of our country for granted is a “simple life” tactic that shows that ignorance is not bliss. Ignorance is a loose canon that will inevitably erupt.

This recession is a turning point in America. The mistake is to try to put the pieces back together as they were. Everyone knows that many people lost their jobs. Employees of 20 years lost their positions and applied for unemployment as their income was paid to outsourced workers, overseas. After plunging profits and downsizing, countless young executives were given cardboard boxes to carry out their paperwork and memories of what had been.

The recession is more than an invitation to the future; it is an “attendance is mandatory” situation. However, stay clear of people whom read your fear and set to sell you your dream of an “easy-out” or “shortcut.” For the time has come for every American to take their place. It is time for millions who were kicked further away from their American dream, to stand up and fulfill their duty to be successful and lead their country to the definitive forefront of the global platform.

Globalization is real and holds a double-edged sword. There is no national equality on such a competitive stage. There is no logistical birthright of American superiority. We are losing grip. Just like every scene, globalization has its clique’s. And, we need to be more than popular. We need to be successful and independent. And, leadership starts at home.

The ability to lead does not mean masses of people should follow you. Leadership is the ability to make sound decisions, create new ideas, weigh their prospects and then pursue your vision, relentlessly. Are you unsure about your leadership skills? Answer these questions: *Is it hard for you to say no? Do your children listen when you ask them to do something? At work, does your boss put you in charge of projects? How often are you the one that organizes get-togethers with friends or family?*

Learn to be a leader by saying no and practice repeatedly. Teach your children and show them how to respond by doing a mock example of an appropriate response. Ask your boss to manage an upcoming project. Pick a day and get together a group of family or friends that all have distinctively different schedules and interests and make it work!

Once you get a grip on these things, pursuing your post-recession destiny will come a bit easier. You will also begin to notice other areas of your life that you can improve. It should be easier to get to those corrections after you have mastered the ones suggested.

Set aside time to think about what your next life step will be. The mistake is to wait for what is gone to come back. Turn off your phone and find a place that is guaranteed to be free from interruptions. You need silence, solitude and time to think about only that one question- what is my next step?

So, I thank G-d for recession, because it is an opportunity for people to embrace the challenge of starting over. It is a chance for people who say they “trust in a higher being” to actually prove it by doing just that- *trusting in a higher being*. I thank G-d for recession because like other tragic times in America, similarities highlight themselves and differences seem as trivial as they are. Life is about human connection. Live alive.