

I'm Sorry ...

**Pirkei Avos 4:22**

*Rabbi Yaakov used to say, one hour of repentance and good deeds in this world is better than the entire life of the World to Come. And one hour of bliss in the World to Come is better than the entire life of this world.*

**#1**

The word for *confession* in Hebrew is *viduy* -shares same root as the word *gratitude -* *toda*.

**Question: What's the similarity between these two concepts?**

**#2**

**Mishnah Yoma 8:9**

*From all your sins before G-d you shall be cleansed" (Torah Vayikra 16:30) – for sins between man and G-d Yom Kippur atones, but for sins between man and his fellow Yom Kippur does not atone until he appeases his fellow.*

G-d commands us to treat our fellows with respect, not to harm them etc. Which implies that anytime you sin against man you also sin against G-d.

**Question: Why would G-d need to wait for your friend to forgive you before He can do it as well?**

**#3**

**Questions:**

**(a) How and why does saying sorry work?**

**(b) How should you ask for forgiveness?**

**(c) How should you NOT ask for forgiveness?**

**(d) Why is it so hard to say sorry?**



**#4**

**Pirkei Avos 4:1**

*… Who is strong? He who conquers his evil inclination ...*

**Questions:**

**(a) How do you get the courage to ask forgiveness?**

**(b) How do you feel after asking forgiveness?**

**(c) Which ‘sorrys’ are easy and spontaneous and which ones cause you to approach with trepidation?**

**#5**

**Shulchan Aruch**

*One must try to apologize three times. After that, if the (sincere) apology is not accepted, it now becomes the other person's problem.*

**Question: What could be the reason for that?**

**#6**

**Avos deRabbi Nosson**

*Who is strong? One who turns his enemy into a friend.*

**The Associated Press**

**Turkey tossing victim asks for light sentence**  
*NEW YORK — A teen who severely injured a woman by tossing a 20-pound turkey through her car windshield was sentenced to six months in jail after his victim requested a light sentence.  
Ryan Cushing, 19, also received five years of probation Monday and was ordered to undergo psychiatric treatment and do community service.  
Victoria Ruvolo underwent a 10-hour operation to repair her crushed face and spent a month in the hospital following the incident last November. She said she requested a light sentence for Cushing because she wanted to give him a second chance.  
“What would vengeance do?” Ruvolo said on NBC’s “Today” show. “God gave me a second chance, and I’m just passing it on.”  
The teen pleaded guilty to one count of second-degree assault in August. If convicted of first-degree assault at trial, Cushing could have been sentenced to up to 25 years.  
Cushing was riding in a car with other teens when the turkey was tossed. Five other teenagers had previously pleaded guilty to various charges, including credit card theft for a spending spree that included the turkey.  
When Cushing pleaded guilty in August, Ruvolo, 44, had hugged him in a tearful embrace in the courtroom. But at the sentencing, Ruvolo said she hadn’t forgiven the teen, “in the sense that I have not absolved you.”  
“I truly hope that by demonstrating compassion and leniency, I have encouraged you to seek an honorable life,” Ruvolo said in court.  
Cushing read a statement saying her kindness “has already made a positive change in my life.”*

**(a) How do you act when someone else asks you forgiveness?**

**(b) What do you feel when you genuinely forgive your friend?**

**(c) There are those who can’t get the word ‘sorry’ out of their mouth, but on the other hand they do a lot of good deeds. If such a person needs your forgiveness, will you accept it even if it’s only through deeds and not through his words?**

**(d) Would you forgive someone who doesn't even ask you forgiveness?**

**#7 What's your takeaway from today's discussion?**

