

## JFGV Dvar Torah

“Breishit Bara Elokim”, In the beginning G-d created - this implies that this was the very first thing that occurred in time. But the Medrash explains that Hashem created many worlds and destroyed them all until He created our world. Rav Yosef Dov Soloveichik explains that certainly Hashem could have done things right the first time. He went through all of the "trouble" of building something which He knew up front would be later destroyed to teach mortal man that it is all right if you don't get things perfectly right the first time. It's completely fine to fail. In fact, it's part of nature to fail.

When I was looking for “bashert”, I did not have an easy time. I travelled to meet potential candidates. I was even engaged before I met my wife and broke my engagement. The evening I broke my engagement, I felt bad. I remember going to my Rosh Yeshiva and relating this information. My Rosh Yeshiva was very supportive and told me that he also broke an engagement before he met his wife and then he told me something that stuck with me. His words were, “everything you go through will get you closer to meet your bashert”. At that time, it was difficult for me to understand his words. Looking back, my Rosh Yeshiva was wise. What he meant was that every person has to go through some failures but these failures are necessary in order to succeed.

The Midrash is teaching us the valuable lesson that life is not about what happens to us, but how we react to what happens to us. God does not want or expect perfectionists. Adam, as great as he was, made a mistake. Perhaps this is why men are born physically imperfect, to instill within us the notion that life is a process of trying to improve and to grow from our previous failures.

Let us all remember that when things do not go right, we should learn something from it in order to succeed.

Shabbat Shalom!

Rabbi Ilan Acoca