VIDUY: Understanding the basics

14th of Elul, 5770

Yesterday we explained that the process of Teshuva is done by the Mitzva of Viduy, confession of our transgressions.

Maimonides says:

'How does one confess? He says: 'I implore You, God, I've ***erred****, I've* ***sinned****, I've* ***rebelled*** *before You, by doing* ***this and that****… Behold, I regret and I'm embarrassed of my deeds, and [I've resolved] never to repeat this again'.*

Let's analyze Maimonides' words.

We can clearly see three different levels of transgressions, **according to the sinner's intention**. Obviously, the more awareness when the transgression is committed, the more severe the sin is perceived.

I've erred (*chatati*). I have made a mistake in judgment. I did not have the full intention of transgressing Your Mitzvot, but I was not **careful** enough to prevent them (Negligence).

I've sinned (*'aviti*) I knew I was doing something wrong, I did it consciously, but I wasn't **strong** enough to control myself.

I've rebelled (*pash'ati*). A transgression done **provocatively**. I want to **show or state** –generally in front of others- that the Torah or the Chakhamim are wrong.

… this and that… should be understood as a blank space. We should enumerate in here the specific sins for which we wish to repent.

We will see BH tomorrow that there many texts of Viduy. The difference between the various versions is the extent of the blank space …**by doing this and that…**

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