

For 80th Birthday with Family --- Feb 2007

הפלא שזכיתי בע"ה לגיל הגבורות. להזכיר את קירבתי לנושא של מוות: ראיתי אשה שהנילה את עצמה מן הגג. אח"כ - עוד בכיתה א' - איך מת עלי ידידי הטוב יהושע קויפמן. ובכיתה ג' -- ידידי שאול גודמן... כל זה גרם לי שלא אהיה בטוח אם אגיע לבר מצוה, או לישא אישה, למצוא תרופה לחליי... וזה לא הפך לאובססיה, אלא להחשיב כל רגע שאני בחיים, ובעיקר יכול לפעול לטובת אשתי ומשפחתי.

HOME

The sheer joy of being alive – *really* alive –

Special mission in life S&P or HOME

When I retired from presidency, I announced in public that henceforth I expect to have the time to walk in the snow in Central Park with my wife, reread the Federalist Papers, perhaps learn Greek or Latin, and learn the political theories of the Founding Fathers and, of course, finish studying a few מסכתות. I am sorry to tell you that *I have done none of the above!!*

9. What, then, do I plan to accomplish the remaining years that the Almighty may grant me?
I'm not going to tell you...! YU or S&P or HOME

5. The Sages say that לגבורה בן שמונים, "at eighty years one acquires (or is characterized by) strength." This is a popular dictum, one oft repeated by those who congratulate new octogenarians. It is usually assumed to reflect on the physical stamina that allows a person to reach this level of longevity. However, the source for this statement in the Mishna is a verse in Psalms that reads: *וְאִם בַּגְבוּרוֹת שְׁמוֹנִים שָׁנָה*; that eighty years is the time for *גבורות*, "strengths" in the plural. To me this implies that there are two types of "strength" – physical vigor and resilience, which normally characterize a younger person; and moral or spiritual strength: the wisdom that comes with experience, the courage to defy all and contribute to the world and to the community, the valor to do what is right rather than what is convenient. *I should add that these words are not descriptive but normative; this is not the way of most people, but the way it should be—the right way....*

מרכבת המשנה לר"י אלאשקר על אבות פרק ה

Author Merkavat HaMishnah: "When you reach 80, your time is limited, so concentrate not on earthly matters but on your service of SSS



אני חושב שיש לי משימה אחת
לעשות טובה גדולה
לעולם הזה והבא