



Glickl on Sorrow and Suffering

From *Glickl: Memoirs*, Book 1 (Turniansky, 2019)

For we human beings understand nothing of each other's sorrow; everyone thinks his own sorrow is the greatest.

A philosopher was once walking down the street. He met a good friend of his who began complaining at length of all his worries and troubles. The philosopher says to his friend: "Come, let us go up on the roof." They went up on the roof where they could see the houses of the entire city. The philosopher says to his friend: "Come, my friend, I will show you all the houses of the entire city; see, in this house there is this sorrow and that calamity; in the next house there is this suffering and that affliction." In brief, the philosopher showed his friend that every house in the city, every single one, had its own particular suffering and anguish. "Now my friend, take your own suffering and anguish and fling them among the houses, then take one of these houses for yourself instead of your own suffering." But upon reflection, he realized that those houses too had tribulations equal to, if not greater than, his own. In the end he preferred his own lot. We see the same thing in the well-known proverb "The world is full of suffering; each finds his own."

What can we do? If we turn to G-d, blessed be He, with all our hearts, he will not forsake us; He will come to our assistance and that of all Israel, bringing *good tidings and consolation*; *He will send the Messiah speedily, amen, may it be G-d's will.*

Source Sheet created on Sefaria by Danielle Kranjec