

REMEMBERING WAYNE W. DYER, "THE FATHER OF MOTIVATION" 1940 - 2015

by Marjorie Gottlieb Wolfe



Syosset, New York

We lost a beautiful soul ("neshome") and human being ("mentsh") on August 29. Dr. Wayne Dyer was a pioneer in the personal-development field. The prolific writer ("shrayber") published more than 40 books, and made a profound ("tif") difference in the lives of millions of people all over "di velt" (the world).

Dyer was no "flannelmouth"--flatterer or braggart.

Dyer was born and raised in Detroit, Michigan, and despite his childhood spent in orphanages and foster homes, he overcame many obstacles to make his dream come true. His father walked out on the family, leaving his mother to raise three small sons.

His main message ("yedie") is that it is possible for every person to live an extraordinary ("umgeveyntlekh") life.

He held a doctorate in educational counseling from Wayne State Univ. and worked as a high school guidance counselor and professor of counselor education at St. John's University in NYC. A literary agent persuaded Dyer to document his theories in his first book, called "Your Erroneous Zones." (About 60 million copies were sold.)

Dyer was also a popular figure on public radio and TV programs, and he raised more than \$250 million for public television.

What pearls of wisdom ("khokhme") did we hear from Dyer? Here are some of my favorites. Note: The Yiddish has been added.

"shtilkayt" (silence)

"klern" (to meditate)

"Embrace silence since meditation is the only way to truly come to know your source."

"reyakh" (smell); "shmekn" (to smell)

"It is easy to love people when they smell good, but sometimes they slip into the manure of life and smell awful. You must love them just as much when they smell foul."

"kvetshn" (to squeeze)

"What comes out of you when you are squeezed is what is inside you."

"prosteh mentshen" (ignorant people)

"grobber kop" (ignorant Jew)

"The highest form of ignorance is when you reject something you don't know anything about."

"opleyger" (procrastinator)

"glik" (happiness)

"Procrastination is one of the most common and deadliest of diseases and its toll on success and on happiness is heavy."

"marants" (orange/fruit)

"ineveynik" (inside)

"When you squeeze an orange, orange juice comes out, because that's what's inside. When you are squeezed, what comes out is what is inside."

"tantsn" (to dance)

"When you dance, your purpose is not to get to a certain place on the floor. It's to enjoy each step along the way."

"baytn" (to change)

"Change the way you look at things and the things you look at change."

"elnt" (lonely)

"aleyn" (alone)

"You cannot be lonely if you like the person you're alone with."

"bashuldikn" (to blame)

"umgliklekh" (unhappy)

"All blame is a waste of time. No matter how much fault you find with another, and regardless of how much you blame him, it will not change you. The only thing blame does is to keep the focus off you when you are looking for eternal reasons to explain your unhappiness or frustration. You may succeed in making another feel guilty about something by blaming him, but you won't succeed in changing whatever it is about you that is making you unhappy."

"kharakter" (character/nature)

"Your reputation is in the hands of others. That's what the reputation is. You can't control that. The only thing you can control is your character."

"himl" (heaven)

"erd" (earth)

"Heaven on Earth is a choice you must make, not a place you must find."

"kinder" (children)

"Your children will see what you're all about by what you live rather than what you say."

"tsoredik" (miserable)

"Be miserable. Or motivate yourself. Whatever has to be done, it's always your choice."

"takhlis" (result)

"In any relationship in which two people become one, the end result is two half people."

"tsukunft" (future)

"garantirn" (to guarantee)

"Stop acting as if life is a rehearsal. Live this day as if it were your last. The past is over and gone. The future is not guaranteed."

"Go for it now. The future is promised to no one."

"tayer shteyn" (precious stone)

"a sheyne mayse" (a pretty tale)

Dr. Dyer told this story in 2013. It is a widely told story that speaks to the value of compassion--"rachmones."

It seems that a woman who lived a Tao-centered life came upon a precious stone while sitting by the banks of a running stream in the mountains, and she placed this highly valued item in her bag.

The next day, a hungry traveler approached the woman and asked for something to eat. As she reached into her bag for a crust of bread, the traveler saw the precious stone and imagined how it would provide him with financial security for the remainder of his life. He asked the woman to give the treasure to him, and she did, along with some food. He left ecstatic over his good fortune and the knowledge that he was now secure.

A few days later the traveler returned and handed back the stone to the wise woman. "I've been thinking," he told her. "Although I know how valuable this is, I'm returning it to you in the hopes that you could give me something even more precious."

"What would that be?" the woman inquired.

"Please give me WHAT YOU HAVE WITHIN YOURSELF that enabled you to give me that stone."

The woman in the story was living her life from a sacred place of compassion.

"dermonung" (reminder)

"keshene" (pocket)

On his facebook page, Dyer recently wrote what many are now seeing as a possible hint that his health was failing: "I have a suit in my closet with the pocket cut out. It's a reminder to me that I won't be taking anything with me. The last [suit] I wear won't need any pockets."

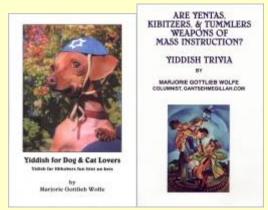
MARJORIE WOLFE'S favorite Dyer story:

Dyer used the phrase "scurvy elephant." This refers to a childhood story Dyer retells about mishearing his teacher referring to him as a "disturbing element" after cutting up in class.

Dr. Dyer, we'll miss you.

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Marjorie Gottlieb Wolfe is the author of two books:



"Yiddish for Dog & Cat Lovers" and "Are Yentas, Kibitzers, & Tummlers Weapons of Mass Instruction? Yiddish

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