Kintsugi is the Japanese art of repairing broken pottery with gold, honoring the cracks as part of the object's history. It's a fitting image for the High Holidays—a season when we mend what's broken *not* by hiding it, but by *illuminating* it with honesty and hope.

Aaron will (first) present the bull of the sin-offering, which is for himself, and make atonement for himself and his family.

Leviticus 16:16

Be among the disciples of Aaron…

Avot 1:12

Clal

The National Jewish Center
for Learning and Leadership

Making **Jewish** a **Public Good**

Clal - The National Jewish Center for Learning and Leadership
440 Park Avenue South, 4th Floor
New York, NY 10016-8012

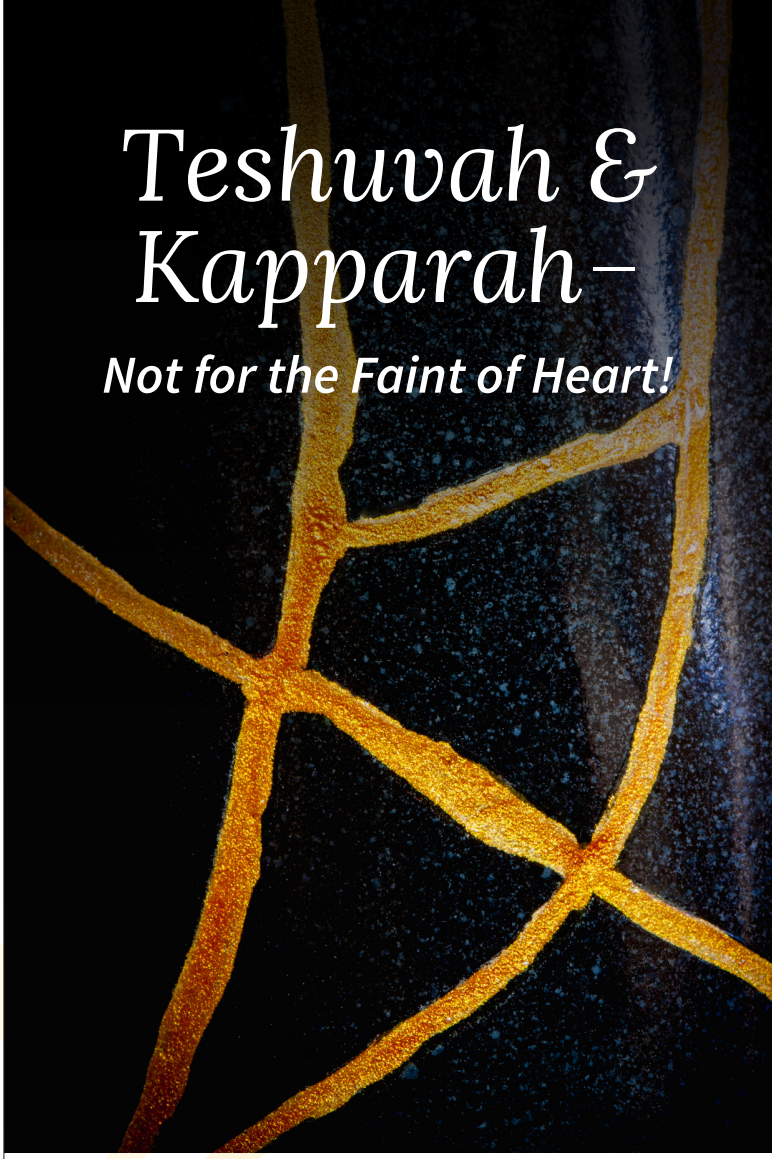
212.779.3300

clal.org

©September 2025 Clal - The National Jewish Center for Learning and Leadership

Teshuvah & Kapparah–

Not for the Faint of Heart!



Clal

The National Jewish Center
for Learning and Leadership

The Teshuvah and Kapparah—Return and Restoration—that stand at the center of Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur begin boldly and bravely with recognition and confession, and nobody gets a pass on that, regardless of how good or righteous they are, or how great the cause they serve may be. **Just Ask Aaron.**

He was the founding High Priest and a famed peace-maker, endlessly devoted to serving God and the people of Israel. **Yet even Aaron had to begin the pivotal Yom Kippur communal confession and sacrifice ritual by recognizing and confessing *his own* wrongdoings before anything else. Why?**

Because neither the goodness of the cause, nor the greatness of those pursuing it, protect them from **the inevitable errors and transgressions that are part of being human.** Embracing that reality is the hinge upon which a better future hangs.

The promise that we are not prisoners of our past—neither personally nor communally—turns on our willingness to see and confess, not to defend and explain. **Aaron knew and lived that, and so can we.**

Here's how to begin:

When have you erred or transgressed this past year while supporting the causes you most believe in?

How have the personal traits of which you are most proud led you astray, however unintentionally?

Who has paid the price for your support of even the best causes, in ways that invite brave recognition and bold confession?

Be like Aaron and discover the return and restoration you so want—and the world so needs.