

In a Facebook post on July 4, 2018, Rabbi Bradley Shavit Artson, Dean of the Zeigler School of Rabbinic Studies, cited a passage from Isaiah 57:10, which stated: “You will find renewal of your strength”. Originally, it was meant to comfort the Israelites after they had suffered for 150 years in exile for their transgressions. Reading this passage today, we can each relate to having overcome some trauma, tragedy, or other negative event and wondering if we can go on.

1. Why do you think Rabbi Artson posted this on July 4th?
2. Have you ever had to cope with some trauma or tragedy when you wondered if you could go on? What enabled you to handle this very painful situation? In other words, where did you find your renewal of your strength?
3. Does your Judaism relate to this renewal in any way? If so, how? If not, why?
4. Why is Isaiah’s passage written in the future tense? Why does it say, “You will find” instead of “You can find”? What is there about the future, ATID, that relates to a “renewal of strength”?
5. What personal or professional difficulties do you have that will call for a renewal of strength? How will the future help you to handle those difficulties?

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