

A Sugya for the Ten Days of Return

Take a deep-dive into *tochecha* (compassionate critique) with your friends, families, and comrades. Explore the text and use the prompts to spark conversation over the holidays.

Masechet Yoma 87a

Gemara

ר' זירא כי הוה ליה מילתא בהדי איניש
הוה חליף ותני לקמיה וממציא ליה כי
היכי דניתי וניפוק ליה מדעתיה

Rabbi Zeira, when he had a grievance with someone [who had caused him harm], would walk back and forth in front of him and make himself present so that he could come and appease him

Rashi

ממציא נפשיה. לפני מי שחטא לו אולי
יבקש ממנו מחילה וימחול לו:

Make himself present – before the one who sinned against him, for maybe [the offender] will request forgiveness and he will forgive him.

Orienting Questions

- What kind of model for interpersonal repair & reconciliation does Rabbi Zeira offer us?
- What are some ways we can practice radical presence to strengthen our relationships?
- How might R' Zeira's perspective connect with the idea of 'cancel culture'?

Go Deeper

- This is one of a pair of stories about *tochecha* found on Yoma 87a. Grab your chevruta and learn them both SVARA-style—all the materials you need are on [the SVARA website!](#)
- Read Benay's essay about this sugya on [Jewschool](#).