

Aleph S'gan, My Brother Alephs,

Beep. Beep. Beep. “Ugh.” It’s time to wake up. But it just doesn’t seem possible. The aching muscles, the crusty eyes, the warm and cozy bed, it’s all gravity pulling us down, back to comfort, back to sleep. We don’t want to think. We don’t want to learn. We don’t want to seize the day. We want to do anything that doesn’t involve moving from that perfectly comfortable position where nothing matters but ourselves and our dreams. Yes, that sleep makes us happy, and there’s no shame in hitting the snooze button every once in a while. But Ramon AZA, it’s time to wake up.

I started off the term at one of our first business meetings by explaining how Ramon’s state is like a pyramid. We have the base levels: consistent membership and events, a fraternal chapter, and solid programming, but that our next goal should be to go to the top of the pyramid. We should have events that are original and mind-blowing, take trips and community service initiatives that are out of the box, and that every board position should be innovating with their projects. So far this term, we’ve seen endless hangouts, happy and chill events, and tons of fraternal, fun moments. But we’ve also seen our fair share of sub-par events, forgotten projects, and Alephs left behind when they needed the chapter the most. We’ll show up in masses when it’s time for a pool party, a frisbee event, or a chill life ceremony. But it seems that the chapter disappears when it’s time to plan a mind blowing event, follow through on a big project that we thought of at the beginning of the term, volunteer in community service efforts, or help fundraise at a chapter yard sale. The state of the chapter is demotivated. We have fallen asleep, and it’s time to get up.

Honestly, I get it. After a long ass school year, some part of me wanted to do nothing more than rest. I wanted the summer part of the term to be a break for me, a place where I can chill and not think about work. I’m certain that many of you feel the same way. And honestly, I’ve had some of the most wild and enjoyable times as Aleph Godol, and even more as just an Aleph this term. There’s a certain joy in staying in that comfortable spot, hangouts and chill times with no worries about waking

up. There's nothing wrong with staying as the chapter that we are. But how long can we sleep? Just like motivating yourself to get up in the morning, you are the only person that can get yourself up. We're in AZA, there's no parent that's going to knock on your door, shake you out of bed, and make you breakfast. The choice to wake up is yours. But my brother Alephs, I implore you, it's time to wake up.

There's something special that we have here in Ramon. You can make friends in other places, you can go on late night hangouts, you can play frisbee, but in Ramon, *and only in Ramon*, you can do anything. You can plan crazy events in silly costumes about wild stories, you can create unheard of trips to far off lands, you can change the constitution top to bottom, make a huge impact, board position or not, you can do *anything*. Why squander that opportunity? I know that we're comfortable, I know that it can sometimes feel so impossible to get up. But if we never get up, how can we start a new day, let alone another half of a term?

Before I go into what exactly I want to see improved, allow me to apologize for some of my misgivings this term. I fell victim to that comfort too, forgetting about my most important duty as Aleph Godol, motivating you, the chapter. To all the board members who hardly heard from me, I am truly sorry. The summer took over my ability to focus on you guys, so I hope to change with this school year. I pray that I was reliable to those of you who reached out to me, but I apologize to those of you who I never made the first effort to reach out to.

Now, let me put it bluntly: here's what we need to see for the second half of the term if we want any chance at waking up from our little nap. We've been seeing too much of the same old, same old with events. The same programs, the same styles. Let's see some originality! If you have an event lined up on the calendar, take it seriously! Put at least two weeks of thought into it, try to do things that you've never seen before, and make it fun for the whole chapter. If you don't have an event lined up, perhaps snag a Sunday event, and plan an awesome trip or creative hangout. You can *always* go bigger. As for projects, all I can say is own up to them. Whether it's something you thought was silly like a Ramon album, or

something more serious like an effort to change BBYO policy, don't let it slip from you. Find guys that you want to work with *right now*, set meetings, make plans, and don't fall asleep on it. We were handed one of the toughest situations in our chapter's history with what's happened to our brother Aleph Raz. If we fall asleep on it and make nothing come out of this travesty, I guarantee that we're going to regret it. Find what you want to do with your second half of the term, there's no one else who's going to wake you up.

So, I'm not going to be going down the board and evaluating each member. Yali will be going around right now handing out written evaluations. Board members, read them at home, and take them to heart. For now, I want to recognize a few key Alephs who have undoubtedly helped wake up the chapter this term, and ones that you should look to as role models. Don't be offended if I don't mention you, I just really want to point out a few Alephs who are going above and beyond, doing never before seen initiatives.

First, Noam Joseph. A lot of you don't see what this guy is up to, but if you need even an inkling of passion, this guy has loads of it. What he's done with Aleph Gizbor is still in the works, but his efforts in the yard sale, egg begs, apparel, and the Ramon card game should not be ignored. Another shout out to Tzlil Nahum for helping with the cards, I can't wait to be playing Ramunchkin soon.

Nir Reiter. This guy cares about newsletters in a way that I haven't seen since I was in eighth grade. So on top of things, so creative, so caring. The Ramon writers guild is killing it, and so much of that is due to this Aleph. I look forward to even more and greater Ramon publications.

Amit Roth. I used to think that there was very little to do with the position of Aleph Machshev, and this guy proves me wrong every week, specifically on Meme Mondays. He's found fun moments in whatever we do, and especially the website. Major props for creativity.

Lastly, Tal Dickman. The Ramon backpacking trip was the single greatest experience I have had as an Aleph this term, and arguable my four years in AZA. This guy, almost single handedly put together

an organized, creative, and ridiculously fun trip for the six of us that went. My biggest praise goes to Tal. He may be short, but you should look up to him, because he really is Tal.

My brothers, the date is August 25th, the alarm is ringing, and it's your choice as for what to do. Are you going to stay in bed, comfy, warm, easy? Or will you make the second half of the term greater than the last, and greater than any term in history. I don't know, the choice is yours. But, I say that it's time to get up, and do what you want with this chapter. We can be more than just happy, more than just complacent. Once we're on our feet, we can do anything. It's time to wake up.

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