**The Death Clock**

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As I have already mentioned, Yom Kippur is a day when we contemplate our mortality and draw from this a refreshed sense of moral direction.

In fact, a recent column in the NY Times suggested that the annual Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur focus on mortality actually helps people to clarify what is important in life. The Christian author believes that these reflective prayers have value to those who are not Jews.

I’m not sure how Yom Kippur affects the life insurance expectations and the rate that I pay for term life. But, keeping all this in mind, yesterday, I joined over 37 million people to look up my date of death.

If you have ever asked yourself 'when will I die?’, this website and advanced life expectancy calculator will predict your death date. It takes into account where you live, how much you smoke and drink, whether you exercise, your body mass index and your outlook on life. I was instructed to plug in the information to disclose my own death clock countdown.

I live in Canada, don’t smoke, am slightly overweight, enjoy wine on Shabbat and sometimes during the week, am moderately active, follow a good diet. And, despite all the challenges to Jewish life, I still have an optimistic perspective. I hit submit and the algorithm provided me a personalised death clock, with a reminder to make a note in my calendar.

Before I tell you the result, let me point out that after all the ”who shall live and who shall die” of these days, we get to the end of Yom Kippur. At the very end of Neilah, we recite the same words that are to be said as part of a Jewish deathbed ritual. A final viddui. We are ready to die. And then, we sound shofar, a sign of resurrection, life after death, and we joyously look forward to break-fast. Yom Kippur leverages the awareness of death to move us forward into life.

Based on the calculations of this site, I will die on: Monday, 22nd September 2042

I will live to be 91 years, 7 months and 15 days old!

That's 6937 Days, 20 Hours, 24 Minutes, 10 Seconds remaining…or approx: 19 years

Not that I’m competitive, but I note that the average life expectancy of other male testers from Canada with my body mass is only 81.4 years old.

So let’s begin Neilah, in all seriousness, with the hope that we’ll conclude Yom Kippur with a renewed sense of hope and life. *Gemar Hatimah Tovah.*

<https://www.death-clock.org/>