להבין ענין שמחת תורה

L'havin Inyan Simchas Torah

FOREWORD

The moments were pregnant with expectation. The entire Lubavitch community of Crown Heights and thousands of guests from around the world were gathered in 770. Telephone connections were made with Lubavitch centers throughout the world.

But the table where the Rebbe would sit and deliver his *farbrengens* had not been set up....

In 5738 (1977), on the eve of Shemini Atzeres, in the middle of *Hakkafos*, the Rebbe had felt chest pains. Everyone was asked to leave the *shul* except for a small *minyan*. He completed the *Hakkafos*, went up to his room, and began receiving medical treatment. It was discovered that he had undergone a severe heart attack; he would undergo a second in the early hours of the following morning.

The chassidim were in utter shock throughout those two nervous days of celebration. On the one hand, Shemini Atzeres and Simchas Torah are days – indeed, *the* days – of rejoicing. On the other hand, with the Rebbe unwell, how could one genuinely rejoice?!

Towards the late afternoon on Simchas Torah, the Rebbe's secretariat notified the chassidim that after the conclusion of the holiday, the Rebbe would speak from his room. Anxiously, throughout the world, those who held the Rebbe dear gathered, awaiting his words.

Shortly after *Havdalah* was recited, the Rebbe's voice could be heard. Since the Rebbe spoke from his room and hardly any chassidim were present, his words were not preceded by a *niggun* nor were they punctuated by any *niggunim* – his entire address was delivered all at once. Nevertheless, from their content and style, the chassidim appreciated that in published form, it was appropriate to separate the Rebbe's words into a *maamar*, a formal chassidic discourse, and *sichos*, talks. His words were later transcribed submitted to the Rebbe, who edited them and assented to their formal publication. In the pages that follow, that *maamar* appears in English translation for the first time.

WHEN THE ESSENCE IS REVEALED

The *maamar* summarizes the Jews' service during the month of Tishrei, underscoring how the essential connection all Jews share with G-d is expressed by all the festivals of the month. The core of every Jew's soul is an actual part of G-d. Each of the festivals of Tishrei inspires us to draw this potential from the hidden reaches of our hearts to our conscious minds.

As a natural consequence, these festivals also emphasize the theme of *achdus*, Jewish unity. For when the essential Divine potential at the core of the Jewish soul is expressed, all divisions among Jews are erased and the essential connection we all share is highlighted.

"AND YAAKOV PROCEEDED ON HIS WAY"

Although the holidays of Tishrei raise a Jew above his ordinary level of experience, they are not intended to be insular events, spiritual peaks that remain transcendent, above connection to our everyday lives. On the contrary, a Jew's Divine service involves harnessing the essential energy generated by these festivals and drawing it down into his day-to-day reality. In simple terms, throughout the duration of the entire year, a Jew's conduct should evince the fact that he experienced an arousal of the essence of his soul during the Tishrei holidays. Even though days, weeks, and months elapse, nevertheless, the spiritual awakening of that month should not fade. but rather continue to exert its influence throughout the coming year.

א) להבין ענין שמחת תורה, וידוע הדיוק בזה אמה שאופן השמחה (דשמחת א תורה) הוא שלוקחים ספר תורה כפי שהיא כרוכה ומכוסה במפהב. ומרקדין עמה דעם היות שבתורה כתיבי כי היא חכמתכם ובינתכם גו' מ"מ אופן שמחה זו הוא לא ע"י לימוד ועיון כ"א ע"י ריקוד דוקא. שלכן השמחה דשמחת תורה היא אצל כל ישראל, גם אצל פשוטים ביותר שאין שייכים להשגה והבנה

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,לְהָבִין שִּנְיַן שִּׁמְחַת תּוֹרָה, To comprehend the theme of Simchas Torah:

(דִשְׂמְחַת תּוֹרָה)

יַדוּעַ הַדְּיוּק בַּוָה There is a well-known question:¹ Why does the rejoicing (of Simchas Torah) מַה שֵׁאוֹפֵן הַשְּׁמְחָה

ered with its mantle תּוֹרָה כָּפִי שֵׁהִיא כָּרוּכָה וּמְכַפַּה בַּמַפַּה

entail taking a Torah scroll while rolled and cov-

at which point, it is impossible to study it2

וּמְרַקּדִין עִמַה. and dancing with it?

דְּעִם הֱיוֹת שֶׁבַּתּוֹרָה Although the Torah is described with the verse,3 "It is your wisdom and your understanding," the קינַתְכֶם גו' quintessence of intellectual development,

תכל מקום אופן שִׁמְחָה זוֹ nevertheless, on Simchas Torah the manner in which this rejoicing is experienced is not through study and analytical thought

בּי אָם עַל יְדֵי רְקוּד דַּוְקָא. but through dancing.

תוֹרָה הִיא אֵצֵל כַּל יִשְׂרָאֵל, rienced by all Jews,

דּשְּׁמְחַה רְשִׁמְחַה Therefore, the rejoicing of Simchas Torah is expe-

even the simplest of folk, who share no connection to matters of comprehension and understanding.

^{1.} See the maamarim entitled BeYom HaShemini Atzeres, 5689 and 5706; the maamar entitled Etz Chayim, 5699; the maamar entitled Lehavin Inyan Simchas Torah, 5705 and 5706.

^{2.} This is particularly true in view of our Sages' statement (Gittin 60b): "Words of the Written [Law] are not permitted to be said by heart."

^{3.} Devarim 4:6.

[ויתירה מזו, שבעת השמחה וריקודים דהקפות נמשכים (ווערן צוגעצויגן) גם כאלו שבשאר ימי השנה אין ניכר הקשר וההתאחדות שלהם עם [עניני] התורה, כמו שרואים במוחש]. וענין זה (שהשמחה דשמחת תורה היא בכל אחד מישראל) מתבטא גם בזה שמרקדין עם ספר תורה – תורה שבכתב דוקא, שאפילו זה שלא ידע מאי קאמר מברך ברכת התורה כשקורא בתושב״כי. ומכיון שזה מה שמברך

הַשָּׂמְחָה וְרְקּוּדִים דַּהַקְפּוֹת נִמִשַׁכִים (וַוערָן צוגּעַצוֹיגָן) גַם כַּאָלוּ שֵׁבִּשְׁאַר יָמֵי הַשַּׁנַה אֵין נִכַּר הַקּשֵׁר וְהַהָתְאַחְדּוּת שֶׁלַהֶם עם [עניני] הַתּוֹרָה,

[ויתֵירָה מְזּוֹ, שֶׁבְּעֵת [Moreover, at the time of the rejoicing and dancing of the hakafos of Simchas Torah people who during the rest of the year evince no apparent connection to and identification with [matters] of Torah are also drawn in,

.[פמו שרוֹאִים בְּמוּחָשׁ] as can be seen in actual fact.]

וְעִנְיַן זֶה (שֶׁהַשְּׂמְחַה דשמחת תורה היא בָּכַל אֶחַד מִיִּשִׂרַאֵל)

This concept (that the rejoicing of Simchas Torah relates to every Jew)

מִתְבַּטָא גַּם בַּזָה שֵׁמְרַקְּדִין עם ספר תוֹרָה –

is also expressed by their dancing with a Torah scroll - no one dances with a volume of Mishnayos or Gemara -

i.e., specifically the Written Law,

שאַפִּילוּ זָה שֵׁלֹא יַדַע מַאי קאַמַר מִבַרֶדְ בִּרְכַּת הַתּוֹרַה פָשֵקוֹרָא בַּתּוֹרָה שַבְּכִתַב.

concerning which it is said that even one who does not understand what he is saying must nevertheless recite the blessings over Torah study before studying the Written Law.4 In contrast: "With regard to the Oral Law, if one does not understand its meaning, [his recitation of the words] is not considered study at all."4

All Jews thus share a connection to the Written Law. On the other hand, there are those who on a conscious level do not relate to the Oral Law. This leads to a deeper point: When a connection is dependent on one's understanding, it is the person's

^{4.} The Alter Rebbe's Shulchan Aruch, Hilchos Talmud Torah 2:12-13; consult the sources cited there.

ברכת התורה הוא ע״פ ציווי תורת אמת, הרי פשוט שכן היא המציאות, שגם זה שלא ידע מאי קאמר ממשיך אוא״ס ועד עצמות ומהות (נותן התורה) בהתורה שלומד. גם ידועה הדיוק למה עושין שמחת תורה בשמיני עצרת (ובחו״ל ביו״ט שני דשמיני עצרת), דלכאורה הי׳ צ״ל בחג השבועות זמן מתן תורתינו.

mind that is involved, not his fundamental "I," who he really is. A connection that is *not* dependent on understanding, by contrast, is capable of touching his essential being.

אַקּבְרֵךְ שֶׁנֶה מַה שֶּׁמְּבְרֵךְ Since the requirement to recite the blessings over בְּרְכַּת הַתּוֹרָה הוּא עַל Torah study is mandated by the Torah, which is the ,קבּת הַתּוֹרָת הְּמָתְר אֱמֶת, Torah of truth,

it goes without saying that this reflects the true הַרִי פְּשׁוּט שֶׁבֶּן reality,

ישָׁבַּם זֶה שֶׁלֹא יָדַע מַאי that even a person who does not understand what he is saying when studying the Torah draws down G-d's infinite light –

יְעֵד עַצְמוּת וּמֵהוּת – and indeed, His very Essence and Being (the (גוֹתֵן הַתּוֹרָה) Giver of the Torah)

ישלומה into the Torah he studies.

The expression used is *kore baTorah*, "he reads the Torah." The Hebrew word *kore* also means "call." Reading the Torah is calling to G-d – indeed, calling Him forth – and drawing down His essential light into the Torah.

בּם יְדוּעַ הַדִּיוּק There is another well-known question:⁵

לְּמָה עוֹשִׁין שִּׁמְחַת Why is Simchas Torah celebrated on Shemini תּוֹרָה בְּשִׁמִינִי עַצֵּרַת Atzeres

וּרְחוּץ לָאָרֶץ בְּיוֹם-טוֹב (and in the Diaspora, on the second day of Shem-,שָׁנִינִי בְּשָׁמִינִי עֲצֶרֶת) ini Atzeres)?

דְּלְכְאוֹרָה הָיָה צָּרִיךְ It would seem that we should celebrate with the לְּהִיוֹת בְּחַג הַשְּׁבֻעוֹת Torah on Shavuos, the festival of the Giving of the Torah.

^{5.} Or HaTorah, Devarim, Vol. 4, p. 1779ff., the maamarim entitled BeYom HaShemini Atzeres, 5689 and 5706.

SUMMARY

Many of the *maamarim* concerning Simchas Torah often focus on two concepts:

- a) that the rejoicing of Simchas Torah entails celebrating with a Torah scroll while rolled up and covered with its mantle, and
- b) the reason that Simchas Torah is celebrated on Shemini Atzeres and not on Shavuos, the festival of the Giving of the Torah.

To explain the first concept: The Torah is described as "your wisdom and your understanding." Nevertheless, the manner in which this rejoicing is experienced is neither through study nor analytical thought, but specifically through *dancing*. Therefore, the rejoicing of Simchas Torah is experienced by *all* Jews, even those who are not at all able to comprehend and understand the Torah, and even those whose connection to the Torah is not apparent throughout the rest of the year.

For this reason, Simchas Torah is celebrated by dancing with a Torah scroll, i.e., the Written Law, for a Jew's connection to the Written Law is not dependent on his understanding or knowledge.

ב) ומובא הביאור בזהי ע"פ מה דאיתא במדרשי ראוי׳ היתה העצרת של חג שתהא רחוקה חמשים יום כנגד העצרת של פסח אלא עצרת של חג ע"י שהן יוצאין מן הקיץ לחורף לית ביומייהו דיזלון וייתון, משל למה"ד למלך שהיו לו בנות הרבה, מהן נשואות למקום קרוב ומהן נשואות למקום רחוק, יום אחד באו כולן לשאול

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וּמוּבַא הַבֵּאוּר בַּזֵה

Chassidus offers the following explanation to resolve the second question mentioned above

עַל פִּי מַה דָּאָיתַא בַּמְדְרַשׁ

based on the *Midrash*² that states:

רְאוּיָה הָיִתָה הָצַצֵרֵת שֵׁל חַג שֵׁתָּהָא רְחוֹקָה חֲמִשִּׁים יום כָּנֵגֶד הַעֲצֵרֶת שׁל פַּסָח

"It would have been appropriate that the concluding festival of the holiday of Sukkos be removed 50 days from it like the concluding festival of Pesach (i.e., Shavuos).

אָלָא עַצֵרָת שֵׁל חַג עַל יִדֵי שֶׁהֵן יוֹצְאִין מָן הַקַּיִץ לַחֹרֵף

There is, **however**, a difference between these two. With regard to Shemini Atzeres, the concluding festival of the holiday of Sukkos, the Jewish people are making a transition from summer to winter, and

לֵית בִּיוֹמַיִיהוּ דְיֵזְלוּוְ וְיֵיתוּוְ,

as such they do not have a sufficient number of days to go and then return," for the rainy season begins shortly after Sukkos.

מַשַׁל לְמַה הַדַּבַר דּוֹמַה לְמֵלֶךְ שָׁהֵיוּ לוֹ בַּנוֹת הַרְבֵּה,

"To illustrate with an analogy: It is like a king who had many daughters,

מֶהֶן נְשׁוּאוֹת לְמַקוֹם קַרוֹב וּמֵהֶן נִשׂוּאוֹת לְמַקוֹם רַחוֹק,

some of whom were married and lived near their father, while others were married and lived in distant places.

יוֹם אָחָד בָּאוּ כַּלַן לְשָׁאוֹל One day, they all came to inquire about the wel-,שׁלוֹם הַמֵּלֵךְ אֲבִיהֵם, fare of their father, the king.

^{1.} The maamar entitled BeYom HaShemini Atzeres, loc. cit.

^{2.} Shir HaShirim Rabbah 7:2 (2).

^{3.} I.e., to go home and return for a second festival.

שלום המלך אביהם, אמר המלך אלו שנשואות במקום קרוב אית בעונתן למיזל ולמיתי, ואילין שנשואות במקום רחוק לית בעונתן למיזל ולמיתי, עד דאינון כולן אצלי הכא נעביד כולן חד יו"ט ונחדי עמן, כך עצרת של פסח עד דאינון נפקין מחורף לקיץ אמר הקב״ה אית ביומא למיזל ולמיתי, אבל עצרת של חג ע״י שהן יוצאין מהקיץ לחורף כו׳ אמר הקב"ה לית ביומא למיזל ולמיתי אלא עד דאינון הכא נעביד כולן חד יו"ט ונחדי. וזהו מה שעושין שמחת תורה בשמיני עצרת, כי ה"יום אחד" שבו באים כל הבנות

אָמַר הַמֶּלֶךְ אֵלוּ שֵׁנְשׁוּאוֹת נתון למיוַל וּלְמֵיתֵי, to go and return;

The king said: 'Those of my daughters who are married and live nearby have ample opportunity

וְאִילֵין שֶׁנְשׁוּאוֹת בְּכָּקוֹם רַחוֹק לֵית בַּעוֹנַתַן למיזל ולמיתי,

those who are married and live far away don't have the opportunity to go and return soon.

עַד דְּאִינוּן כַּלַן אָצְלִי הַכַּא נַעֲבִיד כַּלַּן חַד יוֹם-טוֹב וְנֵחֲדֵי עְמַּז,

Now, while they are all still with me here, let us all make a festival of one day and rejoice together with them.'

כַּךְ עֲצֵרֶת שֵׁל פֵּסָח עַד דְּאִינוּן נַפָּקִין מֶחֹרֶף לְקַיִץ אֲמַר הקב״ה אִית בִּיוֹמֵא לְמֵיזֵל וּלְמֵיתֵי,

Similarly, in the analogue: With regard to the festival following Pesach, when the Jews are making the transition from winter to summer, the Holy One, blessed be He, said, 'They have sufficient opportunity to go and return.

עַל יָדֵי שֶׁהֶן יוֹצָאִין

אַבָּל אַצֵּרֵת שֵׁל חָג However, with regard to the festival following Sukkos, since they are making the transition מהקנץ לחבר כרי from summer to winter,

ביומא למיזל ולמיתי

אָמַר הקב״ה לֵית the Holy One, blessed be He, says, 'they do not have a sufficient number of days to go and return.

כַלַן חַד יוֹם-טוֹב וְנַחֲדֵי.

אַלָּא עַד דְּאִינוּן הַכָּא נַעֵבִיד As such, 'While they are still here, let us all make a festival of one day and rejoice."

ווֶהוּ מַה שֵׁעוֹשִׁין שִׁמְחַת תּוֹרָה בִּשִׁמִינִי עֲצֵרֶת,

This explains why Simchas Torah is celebrated on Shemini Atzeres.

בּאֵים כּל הבּנוֹת

וֹשֵבּוֹ אֵחָד״ שֵׁבּוֹ For the "one day" when all the "daughters" come

[בנות ציון וירושלים, היינו נשמות ישראלח] לשאול שלום המלך אביהם קאיט על יום הכפורים, ולאח״ז אומר נעביד כולן חד יו״ט ונחדי, הואט שמחת תורה (שנקבע בשמיני עצרת), ״חד יו״ט״ בדוגמת ה״יום אחד״ דיום הכפורים.

	[i.e., the daughters of Zion and Jerusalem, the souls of the Jewish people ⁴]
לְשָׁאוֹל שְׁלוֹם הַמֶּלֶךְ אֲבִיהֶם	to inquire as to the welfare of their Father, the King,
ָקאֵי עַל יוֹם הַכִּפָּרִים,	refers to Yom Kippur. ⁵
	Afterwards, the King says, "Let us all make a festival of one day and rejoice together"; ⁴
הוא שִּׂמְחַת תּוֹרָה	this refers to Simchas Torah,
(שֶׁנְקְבַּע בִּשְׁמִינִי עֲצֶרֶת),	(which was ordained by our Sages to be celebrated on Shemini Atzeres),
שֶׁהוּא ״חד יום-טוֹב״ בְּדֻגְמַת הַ״יּוֹם אֶחָד״ דְּיוֹם הַכִּפֻּרִים.	and is referred to as "one festival," similar to the "one festival" of Yom Kippur.

As will presently be explained, Yom Kippur and Simchas Torah share a commonality in that they both express the essential dimension of the Jewish soul. Therefore, "all the daughters," the entire Jewish people, are aroused on those days.

SUMMARY

The Midrash explains the reason that Shemini Atzeres is celebrated directly after Sukkos (in contrast to Shavuos, which is celebrated 50 days after Pesach) with an analogy of a king, whose daughters all come from far and near to visit their father on one day, which refers to Yom Kippur. In appreciation of their visit, the king decides to establish one day of celebration – Simchas Torah – to rejoice together with them.

^{4.} Likkutei Torah, Shir HaShirim, p. 6c, 22b; Or HaTorah, Shir HaShirim. p. 89ff.

^{5.} See the *maamar* entitled *BaYom HaShemini*, 5689, and the *maamar* entitled *Lehavin Inyan SimchasTorah*, 5706.

ג) רובן זה ע"פ מה שנת"ל (ר"ה בסוכות תשבו) שכל המועדים דחודש תשרי היינו, דזה מה שהיום דראש השנה הוא חלוק משאר המועדים הוא במצוה אחת

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This section further develops the concept introduced in the previous section: that on "one day" - Yom Kippur, "all the daughters" - all the Jewish souls, "come to inquire about the welfare of their Father, the King." Afterwards, the King ordains that "one festival" - Simchas Torah - be established, to celebrate together with them.

This concept can be better understood based on the explanations (appearing in the maamar enti-נסכות תשבו tled BeSukkos Teishvu):1

שֶׁכֶּל הַמּוֹעֲדִים that not only Yom Kippur and Simchas Torah, but allthe festivals of the month of Tishrei, reflect the . בְּהִינָה שֵׁל אֲחַת level of achas, the unique core of the Jewish soul that is one with G-d.

Although the Hebrew word achas is translated literally as "one," the intent in this context is not the first in a numerical sequence; rather, it refers to a singular uniqueness and oneness for which there are no appropriate terms. In describing G-d as "one," the intent is not merely that He is the one and only G-d, but rather that He is unique and distinct, an entirely different type of being than all other existence.

Similarly, such a dimension of oneness is vested in the soul of each and every Jew. All the festivals of Tishrei highlight this dimension and bring it to the fore.

דהנה על ראש הַשְּנֵה To explain: With regard to Rosh HaShanah, our אַמְרוּ רַבּוֹתֵינוּ זַ״ל Sages state:² "The mitzvah of the day is performed מִצְוַת הַיּוֹם בַּשׁוֹפַּר." with the shofar."

הַיִנוּ, דְּזָה מַה שֵׁהַיוֹם דְּרֹאשׁ הַשַּׁנָה הוּא חַלוּק מִשְּׁאַר הַמּוֹעַדִים הוּא בִּמִצְוַה אַחַת

The intent is that Rosh HaShanah is distinct from the other festivals because of this one mitzvah,

^{1.} The maamar entitled BeSukkos Teishvu, 5738 (Toras Menachem, Sefer HaMaamarim Melukat, Vol. 1, p. 134ff.).

^{2.} Rosh HaShanah 26b.

(איין און איינציקע מצוה), מצות שופר. ובמצוה זו גופא כותב הרמב״ם שהיא גזירת הכתובי למעלה מטעם. דהגם שהמצוה דשופר גם מרמזת על ענינים הכי נעלים בענין התשובה (כמו שממשיך הרמב״ם רמז יש בדבר כו')יב מ״מ ענינה הוא גזירת הכתוב למעלה מטעם. ועד״ז הוא גם בנוגע ליום הכפורים [סיום העשרת ימים שבין ראש השנה ליום הכפורים], שהיא בחי׳ אחת דכל הג׳ בחי׳ דעולם ימים שבין ראש השנה ליום הכפורים], שהיא בחי׳ אחת דכל הג׳ בחי׳ דעולם

(אַיין אוּן אַיינְצִיקֶע מִצְוָה), (i.e., a singular and unique *mitzvah*,)

מְצְוַת שׁוֹפְּר. the mitzvah of shofar.

אוֹלְמְצְּוָה זוֹ גּוּפָּא And with regard to this very *mitzvah* that פּוֹמֵב הָרַמְבַּ״ם שֶׁהִיא פּוֹמֵב הָרַמְבַּ״ם שֶׁהִיא *Rambam* states,³ "It is "a Scriptural decree," אַזַירַת הַפַתוּב

a Divine command that **transcends reason** and intellect and reflects the essential G-dly core of the soul.

דהנם שֶּהַמְּצְוָה דְּשׁוֹפֶּר True, the *mitzvah* of *shofar* also alludes to the loftiest rungs of the service of *teshuvah*, נַעַלִים בְּעָנִין הַתְּשׁוּבָה

(פְּמוֹ שֶׁמַּמְשִׁיךְּ הָרַמְבַ״ם (as *Rambam* continues:³ "It contains an allu-sion...") Thus, it also possesses a dimension that relates to intellect.

מְכֶּל-מָקוֹם עִנְיָנָהּ Nevertheless, its *primary* dimension is that it is a Scriptural decree that transcends intellect. למעלה מטעם.

וְעֵל דֶּרֶךְ זֶה הוּא גַּם Similarly, Yom Kippur, בַּנוֹגַעַ לִיוֹם הַכּפּרִים

[the conclusion of the Ten Days of *Teshuvah* קיִּמִים שֶׁבֵּין [the conclusion of the Ten Days of *Teshuvah* ליוֹם הַפְּפֵּרִים], between Rosh HaShanah and Yom Kippur,]⁴

^{3.} Hilchos Teshuvah 3:4.

^{4.} Since both the beginning and conclusion of these ten days are characterized by this essential oneness, all the intervening days share a connection to this dimension.

שנה נפש. שהעבודה המיוחדת דיום הכפורים היא בקודש הקדשים בחי׳ אחת דעולם (מקום), ביום דיום הכפורים שנקרא בשם אחת בשנה," בחי׳ אחת דשנה (זמן),

שָׁהִיאַ בְּחִינֵת אֲחַת דְּכָל הַגּ׳ embodies the aspect of "oneness" in the three aspects of olam (space), shanah (time), and nefesh (soul).

Sefer Yetzirah explains that all existence comprises three dimensions: olam, shanah, and nefesh. Yom Kippur represents the quintessence of each of these three dimensions:

שָׁהְעְבוֹּדָה הַמְּיֵחֶדֶת The unique Divine service of Yom Kippur was ביוֹם הַכְּפּוּרִים הִיא performed in the Holy of Holies, בַּלְּדֵשׁ הַקַּרְשׁׁיִם

,(מַקוֹם), the dimension of achas, oneness, in space,

The Holy of Holies embodied the ultimate fusion of finiteness and infinity, as our Sages comment:⁷ "The place where the Ark was situated did not take up any space." Now, precise measure was of utmost significance in the *Beis HaMikdash*. There were ten cubits from the eastern wall of the Holy of Holies to the eastern side of the ark, and ten cubits from its western wall to the western side of the ark; the ark itself was a cubit-and-a-half wide. Yet the width of the entire chamber was only 20 cubits! Despite the fact that the ark measured 2.5 by 1.5 cubits, it did not take up any space; it revealed a dimension of infinity within the finite dimensions of this world.

on the day of Yom Kippur, which the Torah^s refers בּיוֹם הַכְּפֵּרִים שֶׁנְּקְרָא to as achas beshanah, "once a year,"

,נְמַן), בָּחִינַת אַחַת דְּשָׁנָה (זְמַן) the dimension of achas, oneness, in time.

Our Sages⁹ explain that evil wields no power on Yom Kippur. The numerical value of the letters constituting the Hebrew word *HaSatan* (השטן), the name of the angel of evil, is 364. There are 365 days in the year. By nature, the limitations of this world

^{5.} Literally, "world."

^{6.} Literally, "year."

^{7.} Yoma 21a.

^{8.} Vayikra 16:34.

^{9.} Yoma 20a.

ונעשית ע"י כה"ג (אלא שהכה"ג עושה זה בתור שלוחם של כל ישראל)יי דכתיב בי׳ ויבדל אהרן להקדישו קודש קדשים, בחי׳ אחת דנפש. ועד״ז הוא גם בנוגע לסוכות, שבענין הסוכה ןשמצות ישיבה בסוכה היא במשך כל שבעת ימי הסוכות, מרגע הראשון שבהתחלתם] מודגש ענין האחדות (בחי׳ אחת) דכל ישראל כמרז״לטו

empower the Satan. However, on one day every year, Yom Kippur, the Satan wields no power, because Yom Kippur is above the ordinary structure of time.

ארול יֵדִי כֹּהַן גָּדוֹל And this service was performed by the Kohen Gadol, the High Priest,

של כל ישראלן

[it is only that the Kohen Gadol acted as the agent ישלוחם of the entire Jewish people,]

about whom it is written:10 "And He distinguished ,להַקּרִישׁוֹ קּוֹדֵשׁ קַבְשִׁים, Aharon, to sanctify him as most holy,"

representing the dimension of achas, "oneness," in soul. The Kohen Gadol was not merely holier and elevated above the other priests; he was in a different category entirely.

וַעֵל הַרֶךְ זָה הוּא גַם Similar concepts apply with regard to the festival of Sukkos. בנוגע לסכות,

יִשִׁיבַה בַּסָּכַה

The sukkah [– the mitzvah of dwelling in the sukkah defines the theme of the entire festival, as reflected in the fact that it

ימי הסכות, Sukkos,

is to be fulfilled throughout all seven days of

[מֵרֶגַע הָרִאשׁוֹן שֶׁבְּהַתְּחָלָתִם] from the first moment the festival begins –]

(בַּחִינַת אַחַת) דְּכַל יִשְׂרַאֵל

מרגש ענין האחדות emphasizing the concept of achdus, unity (the dimension of achas) that encompasses the entire Jewish people,

ראוים כל ישראל לישב בסוכה אחת. וכמו״כ הוא גם במצות נטילת ד׳ מינים [שענינה הוא להמשיך המקיף (דסוכה אחת) בפנימיותיי], שבכל אחד מד׳ מינים אלו ניכר ומודגש ענין האחדות, ובפרט באתרוג, שבו מודגש ענין האחדות עוד יותר

as our Sages state:" "All the Jewish people are קבּמְאֲמֶר רַבּוֹתֵינוּ זְ״ל worthy of dwelling in one sukkah."
. אַיַשׁב בַּסַּבָּה אַחַת

The oneness of the Jewish people reflected by the *sukkah* is an expression of the essential dimension described above. Since the *sukkah* reveals a light that transcends the natural dimensions of existence, it is capable of uniting the entire Jewish people, disparate though they may be.

דּכְמוֹ כֵן הוּא גַּם בְּמִצְוַת Similar concepts apply with regard to the *mitz-vah* of taking the four species

[whose spiritual theme is to draw down the נשֶּעְנְיָנָהּ הוּא לְהַמְשִׁיךְ [whose spiritual theme is to draw down the encompassing light (of "one sukkah") and internalize it.]¹²

For this reason, according to *Kabbalah*, the *mitzvah* of taking the four species should be performed in the *sukkah*.

דּבְּכֶל אֶחָד מִד׳ מִינִים אֵלּוּ Each of the four species reflects and emphasizes , נְּבֶּר וּמֵדְנְשׁ עִנְיַן הָאַחְדוּת, the concept of *achdus*, unity.

Our Sages¹³ stipulate that a *lulav* may be used for the *mitzvah* only if its leaves are bound together. The only species of myrtle that may be used for the *mitzvah* is one that which has successive rows of three leaves each. In each row, the three leaves must be level with each other, with no leaf significantly higher or lower than another.¹⁴ The species of willow used also expresses the concept of unity, since it grows in clusters.¹⁵

וּבְפְּרָט בְּאֶתְרוֹג, In particular, this is true with regard to the *esrog,* שׁבּוֹ מֻדְּגָּשׁ עִּנְיַן in which the theme of unity is emphasized to an even greater degree.

^{11.} Sukkah 27b.

^{12.} Siddur im Dach, p. 265a; the series of maamarim entitled Yom-Tov shel Rosh HaShanah, 5666, p. 32, et al.

^{13.} Sukkah 32a.

^{14.} Ibid. 32b.

^{15.} Shabbos 20a. See also the series of discourses entitled VeKachah 5637, ch. 87.

[שלכן בסדר הד' מינים שבכתוב" (שגם סדר בתורה הוא תורה) ההתחלה היא מאתרוג פרי עץ הדר], דזה מה שאתרוג נקרא בכתוב בשם פרי עץ הדר הוא לפי שדר באילנו משנה לשנה", היינו שהוא סובל את שינויי ד' האוירים שבמשך השנה, ועד אשר (לא רק שהוא סובל את כל האוירים אלא) הוא גדל מהם. ומענין האחדות

,	[For this reason, in the order of the four species mentioned in the Torah,16
(שֶׁגַּם סֵדֶר בַּתּוֹרָה הוּא תּוֹרָה)	(for the order in which the Torah mentions concepts is also an element of the Torah, indicating sequence and priority)
	the first of the four species mentioned is the <i>esrog</i> , "the fruit of a beautiful tree"]. ¹⁴
דְּזֶה מַה שֶׁאֶתְרוֹג נִקְרָא בַּכָּתוּב בְּשֵׁם פְּרִי עֵץ הָדָר	The reason that the Torah describes an <i>esrog</i> in this manner (using the term הדר) is to allude to the concept that
הוּא לְפִי שֶׁדָּר בְּאִילָנוֹ	it abides on its tree perennially, from one year to

י בְּאִי לְבוּ בּאִילְנוּ the next.¹⁷

אַת שָׁנּוּיֵי An esrog tolerates the climatic fluctuations of all ד' הְאָוִירִים שֶׁבְּמֶשֶׁךְ הַשְּׁנָה, four seasons of the year.

Generally, fruits are able to grow in one only climate. Hence, the variation in the seasons determine the growing season of the different species. The *esrog* is unique in that its growth is not harmed by these climactic changes.

ן וְעַד אֲשֶׁר (לא רַק שֶׁהוּא (Indeed, **not only does it** *tolerate* **all these climac-** סוֹבֵל אֶת כָּל הָאֲוִירִים tic fluctuations;) it actually *thrives* due to them. אָלָא) הוא גָּבַל מֵהֶם.

This reflects a unique dimension of *achdus*. The fact that *the esrog* develops and even thrives from all these diverse climactic influences demonstrates that it is not solely defined by any particular one of them, and is therefore capable of uniting them all.

^{16.} Vavikra 23:40.

^{17.} Sukkah 35a.

שבאתרוג נמשך גם זה בשאר הג' מינים, שלכן הענין דהדר שבג' המינים למדים מאתרוגיש. ונוסף לזה שכל אחד מהד' מינים מורה על ענין האחדות, הנה המצוה בנטילת ד' מינים היא לאחד את כל ד' המינים. שמורים על ד' הסוגים שבבנ"יכ.

,בְּשָׁאֵר הַג' מִינִים three species.

דמְעִנְיֵן הָאַחְדוּת The unity embodied in the esrog serves as the source ישֶׁבְאֶתְרוֹג נִמְשֶׁךְ גַּם וֵה from which unity is drawn down into the other

הַמִּינִים לְמֵדִים מֵאֶתְרוֹג.

ישֵׁלְכֵן הַעְנַיַן דְּהַדֵּר שֵׁבְּג׳ Therefore, the requirement that the other three species also be "beautiful" - hadar - is derived from the esrog.18

Although our Sages are referring to the quality of *hadar*, beauty, in a simple, physical sense, from the explanation that hadar refers to the concept of unity in that the esrog grows and thrives from these seasonal fluctuations, it can also be understood that the "beauty" of the esrog results from combining these variations, i.e., it is a reflection of the essential unity it manifests.

When the Torah derives one concept from another, it indicates that the former is the source for the latter. Thus, the fact that our Sages derived the requirement that the other three species also be הדר, "beautiful" from the esrog indicates that the dimension of unity – which is the source for the esrog's beauty – that exists in the other species also derives from the esrog.

In addition to the fact that each of the four species individually reflects the concept of unity, as על עניון הַאַחִדוּת, explained above,

אָת כַּל ד׳ הַמִּינִים,

the mitzvah of taking the four species is to bring ד׳ מִינִים הִיא לְאַחֵד together all four species,

שמורים על ד׳ הסוגים which as the Midrash relates alludes to the four cat-שַבְּבְנִי יִשְׂרָאֵל, egories of Jews:

The esrog represents a Jew who is distinguished by excellence in both Torah study and the fulfillment of *mitzvos*; the *lulav*, one who is distinguished by excellence in Torah study but not in the fulfillment of *mitzvos*; the myrtle, one who is distin-

^{18.} Sukkah 31a; the Alter Rebbe's Shulchan Aruch, sec. 645:2.

^{19.} Vayikra Rabbah 30:12.

שיהי׳ וייעשו כולם אגודה אחת לעשות רצונך כלבב שלם.

guished by excellence in the fulfillment of *mitzvos* but not in Torah study; and the willow, one who is not distinguished in either of these fields.

The point of this *mitzvah* is to unify all four categories of Jews

י לְּנֵעְשׁוּ כֵּלְם that "they all bond as one company to carry out אֲגוּדָה אֶחָת לַעֲשׁוֹת Your will with a perfect heart." בי שְׁלָם. . רְצוֹּנְךְּ בְּלָבָב שְׁלָם

SUMMARY

All the festivals of the month of Tishrei reflect the level of *achas*, the unique core of the Jewish soul that is one with G-d. Thus, Rosh HaShanah is distinguished by the *mitzvah* of *shofar*, "a Scriptural decree" transcending the intellect. Yom Kippur is a singularly unique day, distinguished by the High Priest's entry into the Holy of Holies. Similarly, Sukkos is characterized by *achdus*, unity, as reflected by our Sages' statement: "All the Jewish people are worthy of dwelling in one *sukkah*." This theme is also reflected by the *mitzvah* of the four species: each individual species, beginning with the *esrog*, points to this quality and it is further emphasized by the *mitzvah* as a whole, which signifies bringing together all the different types of Jews together in unity.

^{20.} The High Holiday liturgy.

ד) **והנה** בכדי שיוכל להיות ההתאחדות האמיתית (ובת קיימא) של כל הד׳ סוגים דישראל, הוא ע״י התשובה. דהנה ענין התשובה הוא למעלה מהתחלקות, שלכן היא בשעתא חדא וברגע חדאכי דזהו ההפרש שבין לוחות

— 4 **—**

וְהִנְּה בְּכְרֵי שֶׁיוּכַל לְהְיוֹת In order for true unity הַהָּמָחִית הַאֲמְתִּית

(וּבַת קַיֶּמָא) (and lasting unity) to be forged

משל כָּל הַד׳ סוּגִים דְּיִשְׂרָאֵל, among the four categories of Jews,

These two concepts – true unity and lasting unity – are interdependent. For unity to be lasting, it must be true, i.e., it must reflect an essential factor common to all those brought together. Unity that comes as a result of an external factor is dependent upon that factor; when that external factor is absent, the unity will also come to an end.

it must be engendered by *teshuvah*. Teshuvah means "return," i.e., the soul's return to its essential G-dly core.

דְּהָנֵּה עִנְיַן הַתְּשׁוּכָה הוּא For *teshuvah* transcends division. ,אַנְיַן הַתְּשׁוּכָה מָהָתְחַלְּקוּת

Every Jew shares the same essential G-dly core, every Jewish soul is "an actual part of G-d from Above." As a result, *teshuvah* erases all divisions among Jews and generates unity.

אָלֶכֶן הִיא בְּשַׁעְתָּא Therefore, it occurs "in one instant and in one ... אַלְכֶן הַיא הְרָגַע חַדָא הַּרֶגַע חַדָא moment,"

i.e., *teshuvah* is essentially above time, making possible the expression of a Jew's inner G-dly core, which transcends the limits of this world, including the limits of time and space. Nevertheless, since a Jew lives in this world, within the limits of time and space, *teshuvah* also takes a measure of time. However, inasmuch as it expresses a Jew's essential G-dly core, it is not defined by the ordinary structures

^{1.} See Likkutei Sichos, Vol. II, Shabbos Shuvah (adapted in Timeless Patterns in Time, Vol. 1 p. 33).

^{2.} Tanya, ch. 2.

^{3.} Zohar, Vol. I, p. 129a.

הראשונות (ענין התורה מצ"ע) ללוחות השניות (ענין תורה ע"י תשובה), שבכדי לקבל לוח"ר הי' משה בהר ארבעים יום, נוסף על ההכנה דשבעה שבועות תספר לך שהי׳ לפנ״זכי, משא״כ בלוחות השניות, הרי הארבעים יום שהי׳ משה בהר הוא

of time. Thus, it is not quantified in hours and minutes, but instead, can occur in but one instant and moment.

This constitutes the difference between the First Tablets (which reflect the Torah as it exists in its (הַתּנְרָה מִצֶּד עַצְמַה own right)

and the Second Tablets (which reflect the Torah as it is motivated by teshuvah).

This is the reason that the Second Tablets were given on Yom Kippur, the day of teshuvah and forgiveness.

בָהַר אַרְבַּעִים יוֹם,

In order to receive the First Tablets, Moshe remained on Mount Sinai for 40 days.

נוֹפַף עַל הַהַכנה דְּשָׁבְעַה Moreover, this was preceded by the seven-week preparatory period of Sefiras HaOmer, the Counting ישהיה לפני זה. of the Omer, as it is written:⁴ "You shall count for vourselves seven weeks."

True, the *mitzvah* of counting the *Omer* was given at Mount Sinai when the entire Torah was given. Nevertheless, as Ran writes in his gloss at the end of Tractate Pesachim, the seven-week period from the Exodus until the Giving of the Torah is the source of the mitzvah "You shall count for yourselves seven weeks." As the Zohar states,5 after the Exodus from Egypt it was necessary that there be seven weeks of preparatory service before the Giving of the Torah. Since the Torah was given within the structures of this world, i.e., time and space, its transmission also involved time.

In contrast, giving the Second Tablets did not involve a protracted period of time. True, Moshe also remained on Mount Sinai for 40 days before receiving the Second Tablets. However,

^{4.} Devarim 16:9.

^{5.} Zohar, Vol. III, p. 97b.

(בעיקר) בכדי לפעול שיתרצה הקב״ה לישראל בשמחה ובלב שלם בי, ולאח״ז ניתנו הלוחות בשעתא חדא. והנה ענין זה [מה שהתשובה היא בשעתא חדא וברגע חדא] מדגיש שענין התשובה הוא למעלה מכל מדידה והגבלה כד, מפני שתשובה אמיתית מגעת (דערנעמט) בפנימיות ועצמות הנפש, שבחינה זו היא למעלה מהתחלקות,

the purpose of the 40 days during which Moshe remained on the mountain was

קבְדֵי לְפְעֹל (primarily) so that Moshe could motivate the ליִשְׂרָאֵל Holy One, blessed be He, to be reconciled with ,בְּשֶׂמְחָה וּבְלֵב שַׁלֵם, the Jewish people joyously and wholeheartedly.

בָּשַׁעְתַּא חֲדַא.

אלאַחֵרִי זֵה נְתִּנוּ הַלְּחוֹת Afterwards, i.e., after Moshe accomplished that reconciliation, the Second Tablets were given in one instant.

For the Second Tablets reflected the Torah as it is connected with teshuvah, which transcends the limits of this material world.

חַדַא וּבְרָגַע חַדַא]

This concept [– that teshuvah occurs in one ישהתשובה היא בשעתא instant and in one moment –]

הוא למעלה מכל מָדִידַה וְהַגְבַּלַה,

פַדְגִּישׁ שֵׁעְנָיָן הַתְּשׁוּבָה emphasizes that teshuvah transcends all limits and boundaries.7

ָבְפָנִימִיוּת וְעַצְמוּת הַנְּפָשׁ, the soul,

קפני שֶׁתְשׁוּכָה אֲמְתִּית For true teshuvah reaches (and encompasses) the innermost dimension and very essence of

מהתחלקות,

a dimension that transcends the limits of this world and which is therefore above any division,

^{6.} Rashi, Shmos 33:11.

^{7.} Likkutei Torah, Devarim, p. 65a.

בחי׳ אחת (בשעתא חדא וברגע חדא) דנפש. וזהו מה שע״י התשובה נעשה ההתאחדות של כל הסוגים דישראל, מראשיכם שבטיכם עד חוטב עציך ושואב מימיך, ובאופן דאתם נצבים כולכם גו׳, נצבים מלשון כה נצב מלך יו שישראל נעשים

the aspect of achas, oneness, described above in sec. 3,

(בְּשֵׁעְהָּא חָדָא וּבְרֶגֵע חָדָא) (and which hence occurs **in** one **instant and in** one **moment**),

.דְנְפַשׁ. within the soul.

On this basis, it is understood that through נְצֶשֶׁה הַהַּתְאַחְדּרִּת שֶׁל teshuvah, unity is forged among all the diverse בְּצַשֶּׁה הַהַּתְאַחְדּרִת שֶׁל categories of Jews, to borrow the wording of the verse.*

מֶרְאשֵׁיכֶם שִׁבְטֵיכֶם עַד "from the heads of your tribes... up to and including your wood-hewers and your water-drawers," comprising all ten categories of Jews mentioned in the above verse.

וּרָאֹפֶּן דְאַתֶּם נְצְּרִים Moreover, the unity forged from these categories of Jews is of an essential nature, as reflected in the beginning of the verse⁷ "You are all standing firmly...."

Since the verse continues and enumerates all ten categories, why does it begin with "You are *all*"? Because it highlights the essential core of the soul, which all Jews posess equally.

When that level is tapped, the Jews

נְצָבִים מִלְּשׁוֹן נִצָּב מֵלֶדְ, "stand firm."

Moreover, as the term נצבים implies, their firm stance reflects a strength that transcends the limits of this world. Thus, we find the wording¹⁰ "the deputy (נצב) of the king," i.e., the Jews stand firm with the strength of a king.¹¹

^{8.} Devarim 29:9-10.

^{9.} Which reflect the ten Sefiros Above.

^{10.} I Melachim 22:48.

^{11.} Or HaTorah, Devarim, Vol. 3, p. 1201.

מלכים און בעלי בתים על כל המציאות דעולם, מתחיל מזה שהם נכתבים ונחתמים בכתיבה וחתימה טובה לשנה טובה ומתוקה בטוב הנראה והנגלה למטה מעשרה טפחים גם בענינים הגשמיים, מכיון שמצד בחי׳ זו אין שייך לחלק בין רוחניות לגשמיות ובין מעלה למטה, און דאָס נעמט דורך את כל סדר ההשתלשלות וגם מה שלמעלה מסדר ההשתלשלות.

וזהו ענין יום אחד באו כולן לשאול שלום המלך אביהם כו' נעביד כולן חד יו"ט ונחדי

שֵׁיִשִּׂרָאֵל נַצֵשִׁים מִלָּכִים אוּן בַּעֵלֵי בַּתִּים עַל כַּל הַמְצִיאוּת דְעוֹלָם,

The Jewish people become kings and masters over the entire existence of the world.

מַתְחִיל מָזָה שָׁהֶם נִכְּתַּבִים וְנֵחְתַּמִים בָּכְתִיכָה וַחַתִּימַה טוֹבָה לַשַּׁנָה טוֹבָה וּמִתוּקָה בְּטוֹב הַנְּרְאֵה וְהַנְּגְלֵה למשה מעשרה טפחים

This begins with their being inscribed and sealed for a good and sweet year, with revealed and apparent good, not only in the spiritual sense, but within ten handbreadths of the earth, i.e.,

גַם בַּעִנִינִים הַגַּשָׁמִיִּים,

in material matters, as well. The blessings also encompass the material

רוּחַנִיוּת לְגַשְׁמִיוּת material,

שמצַר בַּחִינָה because, when this essential level is tapped, there זוֹ אֵין שֵׁיַךְ לְחַלֵּקְ בֵּין is no distinction between the spiritual and the

וּבֵין מַעְלַה לְמַטֵּה,

nor between what is above, in the spiritual realms, and what is below, on this material plane.

און דאָס נַעמט דּוּרָךְ אָת כל סדר ההשתלשלות

For this rung encompasses the entire Spiritual Cosmos,

מְסֵרֵר הַהִשְׁתַּלְשְׁלוּת.

and, indeed includes even the levels above the Spiritual Cosmos.

וְזֵהוּ עִנָיַן יוֹם אֱחַד בַּאוּ כַלַן לְשָׁאוֹל שָׁלוֹם הַמֶּלֶךְ אֲבִיהֶם כו׳

On this basis, we can understand the *Midrashic* passage quoted previously: One day, all the daughters came to inquire about the welfare of their father, the king.

- נַעַבִיד כַּלָּן חַד יוֹם טוֹב וְנֵחֲדֵי עִמַּן,

In response, the king said: "Let us all make a festival of one day and I will rejoice with them."

עמן, יום אחד (שבו באו כולן לשאול שלום המלך אביהם) הוא יום הכפורים, אחת דשנה (וגם אחת דעולם ודנפש), ומזה נמשך אח״כ נעביד כולן חד יו״ט כו׳ שקאי על שמחת תורה, שהוא ג"כ יום אחד (חד יו"ט), בחי' אחת.

יוֹם אָחָד (שֶׁבּוֹ בַּאוּ כַלְּן The "one day" (on which all the daughters came to inquire about the welfare of their Father, the ,אַבִיהָם) הוּא יוֹם הַכְּפַּרִים, King) is Yom Kippur,

referred to as "once a year," "one" in the realm of shanah, time, for it is a day on which G-d's essential oneness is manifest,

(וְגַם אַחַת דְעוֹלֶם וּדְנֵפֶשׁ), (and also "one" in the realms of olam, space, and nefesh, soul).

This is reflected in the service of the Kohen Gadol in the Holy of Holies, as explained above in sec. 3. Since G-d's essential oneness is manifest on this day, the essential dimension of every Jew comes to the fore in heartfelt teshuvah, their "inquiry as to the welfare of their Father, the King."12

דיק אַחַר כַּךְ נַעֲבִיד From this is drawn forth G-d's response, "Let us מבלן חַד יוֹם-טוֹב כוי all make a festival of one day,"

. שַׁקַאֵי עַל שִׁמַחַת תּוֹרה which refers to Simchas Torah,

שהוא גַּם כֵּן יוֹם אָחָד which is also represents the aspect of "one day" ("one festival") (קד יום-טוב),

a day on which G-d's essential **oneness – achas –** is manifest.

The Jews' celebration of the Giving of the Second Tablets on Yom Kippur - the Torah as it is connected to teshuvah – occurs on Simchas Torah. Hence, all Jews, even those whose connection to the Torah is not evident throughout the year (see above, sec. 1), are inspired to celebrate with the Torah.

^{12.} The wording of the Midrash gives us insight into the nature of teshuvah. Yom Kippur is described as the day on which the daughters come to inquire as to "the welfare of their father, the king." The focus is not on "the daughters," the Jewish people - that Yom Kippur is the day of judgment or the day on which the Jews turn to G-d in teshuvah - but rather on "the day" on which they come to inquire as to "the welfare of their Father, the King." The focus is on Him, not on them.

SUMMARY

The unity of the Jewish people is brought about through *teshuvah*, for *teshuvah* reveals the core of the Jewish soul, which transcends the structures of this world. For this reason, *teshuvah* occurs "in one instant and in one moment."

On this basis, we can understand the difference between the Giving of the First Tablets on Shavuos and the Giving of the Second Tablets on Yom Kippur. The First Tablets reflect the Torah as it is drawn into the limits of the world. Hence, they were given after a 40-day period. The Second Tablets, by contrast, were given as a response to the *teshuvah* of the Jewish people. Hence, they were given "in one instant and in one moment."

When the essence of the soul is revealed through *teshuvah*, unity is forged among all the diverse categories that comprise the Jewish people. This in turn draws down a year of blessing and success in both material and spiritual matters.

Since Simchas Torah celebrates the giving of the Second Tablets on Yom Kippur, i.e., the Torah as it is connected to *teshuvah*, it therefore encompasses the entire Jewish people.

ה) נהנה ההתעוררות דבחי׳ אחת שבנפש שלמעלה מהתחלקות צריך להמשיכה בהדרגות דנפש שבבחינת התחלקות (ובדוגמת מה שהתעוררות זו צריכה להיות קשורה בעשי׳ גשמית, וכמו בהעשי׳ דישיבה בסוכה, נטילת ד׳ מינים, ריקוד

-5-

The previous sections focused on the arousal of the essential core of the Jewish soul throughout the month of Tishrei, and on Yom Kippur and Simchas Torah in particular. Nevertheless,

שַׁלְּמַעְלַה מֶהָתְחַלְּקוּת

the arousal of the aspect of achas, the essence of the soul, which transcends division,

צריך להמשיכה בהדרגות דְּנֵפֶשׁ שֶׁבְּבְחִינַת הָתְחַלְּקוּת

must then be drawn into those levels of the soul that are structured according to the divisions prevailing within the Spiritual Cosmos.

The Spiritual Cosmos is structured according to the pattern determined by the Ten Sefiros. Similarly, every soul has ten powers that reflect – and originate in – these Ten Sefiros. 1 Nevertheless, the soul possesses an essential G-dly core, which is unlimited and undefined and, as such, transcends these ten powers.² Not only must this essential core be aroused; its influence must be extended so that it permeates and redefines the soul's ten powers.

בעשיה גשמית,

[וֹבְרָגְמַת מָה שֶׁהָתְעוֹרְרוֹת [To cite a parallel: The arousal of the essence of the soul must be connected with a physical act –

וּכְמוֹ בְּהָעֵשִׂיָה דִּישִׁיכָה for example, the act of dwelling in the sukkah, taking the four species, or dancing with one's feet בַּפַבַה, נְטִילַת ד׳ מִינִים, ירקוּד בְּרֵגְלַיִם]. on Simchas Torah].

As explained previously, Sukkos and Simchas Torah are manifestations of the dimension of achas, the essential core of the soul. However, the soul's essential power is drawn into and expressed by the actual performance of the *mitzvos* and customs observed on these festivals.

^{1.} Tanya, ch. 3.

^{2.} See HaYom Yom, entry 21 Sivan.

ברגלים]. דזהו מה שלאחרי שנאמר אתם נצבים גו' כולכם גו' שכל ישראל הם באופן ד"כולכם"ם מצד בחינת אחת שבהם, מונה אח"כ כל העשר סוגים בפרטיות, מראשיכם שבטיכם עד חוטב עציך ושואב מימיך, היינו שהענין דכולכם (בחינת אחת) דישראל צריך להיות ניכר בהם גם כמו שהם בבחינת התחלקות. וכמו שהוא בנפש עד"ז הוא גם בשנה. שבחינת יום אחד דיום הכפורים ודשמחת תורה

On this basis it can be understood why, after having אָחֶם נְצַּבְים גו׳ כַּלְכֵם גו׳ stated "You are all standing firm..." –

שׁבָּל יִשְּׂרָאֵל הֵם highlighting the fact that the entire Jewish people "כולכם, "all of you," כולכם, "all of you,"

מָצֵּד בָּחִינַת אַחַת שֵׁבָּהֶם,

that stems from the essence of the soul, the dimension of achas that they all possess, a dimension that transcends their individual identities -

סוגים בּפְרַטִיוּת, individually,

the verse then enumerates all ten categories of Jews

מַרַאשִׁיכֵם שִׁבְטֵיכֵם

beginning with "the leaders of your tribes"

עַר חוֹטֵב עֵצֵיךְּ

and extending to and including "your wood-hew-ישוֹאֶב מֵימֵיךּ, ers and your water-drawers,"

(בַּחִינַת אַחַת) דִּישִׂרָאֵל

i.e., the dimension of כולכם (the aspect of achas), the essence of the **Jewish** soul,

צַרִיךְ לְהִיוֹת נְכַּר בַּהֶם גַּם כָּמוֹ שֵׁהֵם בַּבְחִינַת הָתַחַלְּקוּת.

must be readily apparent in them, in the different types of Jews, even as they exist with their discrete identities.

וּכְמוֹ שֵׁהוּא בְּנָפֵשׁ עַל דָרֶךְ זָה הוּא גַּם בְּשָׁנָה,

The process described above regarding the dimension of soul should also be mirrored in the dimension of time:

שַׁבָּחִינַת יוֹם אֶחָד דִּיוֹם הַכָּפַּרִים וּדְשָׂמְחַת תּוֹרַה

The aspect of "one day," the essential dimension of Yom Kippur and Simchas Torah,

^{3.} See Likkutei Torah, Devarim, p. 44a.

פועלת און פירט אן מיט אלע ימי השנה (מתחיל מאסרו חג), שבכל פרטי עשיותיו בכל מעשיך ובכל דרכיך), ניכר אַז ער איז אַט ערשט געקומען מיום אחד דיום הכפורים ודשמחת תורה. וענין זה הוא במשך כל השנה כולה, דאף שכבר עברו כמה וכמה ימים שבועות וחדשים מיום הכפורים ושמחת תורה, אעפ״כ ההתעוררות דיום אחד אינה נחלשת כלל ובתקפה עומדת, מכיון שבאה מבחינה שלמעלה

should continue to affect and steer a Jew through-מיט אַלֵע יִמֵי הַשַּׁנַה out all the days of the year

(מַתְחִיל מֵאָסְרוּ חַג) (beginning with Isru Chag, the day following the festival of Simchas Torah).

שַּבְּכָל פּּרָטֵי צֵשִׂיוֹתָיו Every detail of all one's actions

(בַּכַל מַצַשִּׁידְ וּבִכַל דְּרָכֵידְ),

(which are to be performed in the spirit of "All your deeds shall be for the sake of Heaven"4 and "Know Him in all your ways"),5

נָכָּר אַז עֶר אִיז אַט עֵרִשִּׁט גַעקוּמֵען מִיוֹם אָחָד דִּיוֹם הַכָּפַּרִים וּדִשִּׂמְחַת תּוֹרָה.

should evince the fact that he has just now experienced an arousal of the essence of the soul on the "one day" of Yom Kippur and Simchas Torah.

וְעְנֵין זֵה הוּא בְּמֵשֵׁךְ This should continue throughout the duration סל השנה פלה, of the entire year.

דַאַף שֶׁכָּבֶר עַבְרוּ כַּמָּה וְכַמַּה יַמִים שַבוּעוֹת וחַדשִׁים מִיּוֹם הַכְּפַּרִים וְשִׂמְחַת תּוֹרָה,

Even though days, weeks, and months may have already elapsed since Yom Kippur and Simchas Torah,

אַף-עַל-פִּי-כֵּן הַהָּתְעוֹרְרוּת דִּיוֹם אֶחָד אֵינָה נָחָלֶשֵׁת כַּלַל

nevertheless, the essential arousal of "one day" has not at all slackened

and retains its original intensity. This is possible

^{4.} Avos 2:12.

^{5.} Mishlei 3:6.

מענין ההתחלקות והשינויים, בחינת אני הוי׳ לא שניתיכת. ועל ידי שהבחינה דיום אחד שלמעלה מהתחלקות נמשכת בכל ימי השנה שבבחינת התחלקות ושינויים, עי"ז נעשה עילוי גם בהבחינה דיום אחד, ע"ד מה שנת"ל בענין פרי עץ הדר

שבאה מבּחִינַה because it originates in a dimension that transcends any concept of division and change, G-d's בהתחלקות והשינויים. Essence, about which it is said,6

ינִת אַנִי הַוֹיָה לֹא שָׁנִיתִי. "I, G-d, have not changed."

It was previously explained that the arousal of the essential core of the Jewish soul should infuse additional spiritual energy into the particular spiritual levels of every individual Jew. In this section the *maamar* explains a parallel concept in the realm of time. It now adds a further point:

מהתחלקות נמשכת

וַעַל יְדֵי שֶׁהַבְּחִינָה Eliciting the essential aspect of "one day," which דיום אַחַר שֵׁלְמַעְלַה transcends all divisions, draws it

into all the other days of the year, i.e., into those ,הַתְחַלְּקוּת וְשְׁנּוּיִים aspects of time that relate to division and change,

מל יְדֵי זָה נַעֲשֵׂה עִלּוּי גַם and through this, the essential dimension of "one ,בְּהַבְּחִינָה דִּיוֹם אֵחָד, day" is also elevated to a higher level.

When the diverse elements existing within the realm characterized by particular divisions and distinctions respond to and reflect the arousal generated by the essence of the soul, it has a reciprocal effect, eliciting a loftier dimension within the essence of the soul itself.7

על דֶּרֶךְ מַה שֵׁנְתִבָּאֵר A parallel can be drawn between the above expla-קבר שֵין פְּרִי עֵץ הָדָר **nations** regarding the reciprocal effect brought about by the arousal of the soul's essence and with those regarding the esrog:

^{6.} Cf. Malachi 3:6.

^{7.} See the maamar entitled VeAtah Tetzaveh, sections 11-12 (Lessons in Sefer HaMaamarim, Vol. 1, p. 402ff.), where this concept is explained.

אשר לא רק שהוא סובל כל שינויי האוירים אלא שהוא גדל מהם.

that not only does the *esrog* tolerate climactic אֲשֶׁר לֹא רַק שֶׁהוּא סוֹבֵל fluctuations from season to season, but rather these fluctuations actually contribute to its flourishing.

SUMMARY

The previous sections focused on the arousal of the essential core of the Jewish soul throughout the month of Tishrei, in particular on Yom Kippur and Simchas Torah. This section highlights the fact that the arousal of the level of the essence of the soul that transcends division must be drawn into those levels of the soul structured according to the divisions that prevail within the Spiritual Cosmos. The Torah alludes to such a process in the verse "You are all standing firm today, the heads of your tribes... your wood-hewers and your water-drawers." "You are all standing firm today" refers to the essential dimension shared by all Jews, which unifies the people into a collective. That dimension must be infused into all ten categories of Jews, from "the heads" up until and including "your water-drawers."

In a similar fashion, the essential influence of Yom Kippur and Simchas Torah must be drawn into and affect a person's conduct throughout the year. It should be readily apparent every day of the ensuing year that the essence of one's soul has been aroused on Yom Kippur and Simchas Torah. It is possible to accomplish this since the soul's essence originates in G-d's Essence, which transcends change.

Drawing down the essence of the soul into its particular levels has a reciprocal effect, elevating the essence of the soul above its natural level.

ה ליקל רצון, שכל הנ"ל יתקיים בכל אחד ואחת בתוככי כלל ישראל, שתהי' שנה טובה ומבורכת בטוב הנראה והנגלה למטה מעשרה טפחים, בבני חיי ומזוני ובכולם רויחי, הן בבני חיי ומזוני כפשוטם והן בבני חיי ומזוני ברוחניותיי (שמהם משתלשלים הענינים כפשוטםי), אשר מתוך שמחה וטוב לבב תהי' מיד לאחרי שמחת תורה העבודה דויעקב הלך לדרכולא גם בהנוגע לעניני הרשות

-6-

וְאַחַת בְּתוֹכֵכִי כִּלֵל יִשְׂרַאֵל, Jewish people –

ויִהִי רֲצוֹן, שֶׁכֶּל הַנִּזְכֶּר May it be G-d's will that all the above be realized for every individual man and woman among the

שְּהָהֶה שָׁנָה טוֹבָה וּמְבֹרֵכֵת that they be blessed with a good and prosperous year, replete with apparent and revealed good on למשה מעשרה טפחים, this material plane¹

with regard to children, health, and sustenance - and all this, in an abundant manner.

This refers both to children, health, and suste-חמר בפשוטם nance in the literal sense

as well as to children, health, and sustenance in the spiritual sense²

הַעְנַיַנִים כָּפְשׁוּטַם,)

(שֶׁמְהֶם מְשֶׁתֵּלְשְׁלִים (from which derive these matters in a literal sense).3

לבב תהיה מיד לאחרי שָׂמָחַת תּוֹרָה הַצָּבוֹרַה דְּוַיַעֲקֹב הַלַךְ לְדַרְכּוֹ גַּם בָּהַנּוֹגֵעַ לְעָנִינֵי הַרְשׁוּת

אַשֶּׁר מִתּוֹךְ שִׂמְחָה וַטוֹב May the Divine service of "And Yaakov proceeded on his way,"4 encompassing even one's material matters, begin immediately after Simchas Torah, amidst joy and gladness of heart.

^{1.} The literal meaning of the Hebrew expression lemattah me'asarah tefachim is "below ten handbreadths," i.e., not "above the earth," but rather manifest in one's material life.

^{2.} See the end of Chanoch LeNaar; the maamar entitled VeHavayah Pakad es Sarah in Or HaTorah (Bereishis, Vol. 4, p. 1510).

^{3.} As reflected by the statements in *Tanya*, the beginning of ch. 3.

^{4.} Cf. Bereishis 32:2.

[שענין ויעקב הלך לדרכו שאחרי יום הכפורים לב הוא ב״דרכו״ בענין המצוות, שהרי בד׳ הימים שבין יום הכפורים לסוכות כל ישראל עסוקים במצוותלג. משא״כ ענין ויעקב הלך לדרכו שלאחרי שמחת תורה הוא ב״דרכו״ גם בעניני הרשות], שבכל יום ויום, הן בימי החול ועאכו"כ בשבת ויו"ט (כולל גם ראש השנה ויום הכפורים),

There are two statements of the Rebbeim concerning the beginning of the Divine service of "And Yaakov proceeded on his way" - that the influence of the essential Divine service carried out during Tishrei carry over into the ordinary days of the coming year: One states that this service begins after Yom Kippur⁵ and the other, that it begins after Simchas Torah.⁶ There is no contradiction between the two.

[שֵׁעְנָיָן וִיַעֵּלְב הָלַךְּ לְדַרְכּוֹ [The Divine service of "And Yaakov proceeded on his way" that begins after Yom Kippur⁵ שׁאַחֵרִי יוֹם הַכְּפַרִים

תּצְנִין הַמְּצְוֹת, mitzvos

"הוא ב"דַרְכּוֹ refers to "one's way" in spiritual endeavors, the

שָׁהַרֵי בִּד׳ הַיַּמִים שֵׁבֵּין יוֹם הַכְּפַּרִים לְסַכּוֹת כַּל יִשְׂרַאֵל עֲסוּקִים בִּמְצְוֹת.

for during the four days between Yom Kippur and Sukkos, the entire Jewish people are engaged in preparations for the performance of the mitzvos of the upcoming festival.

מַה שֵׁאֵין כֵּן עִנְיַן וְיַעַקֹב הַלַךְּ לְדַרְכּוֹ שֵׁלְאַחַרִי שמחת תורה הוא ב״דרכו״ גַם בִּעִנִינֵי הַרְשׁוּת],

In contrast, the Divine service of "And Yaakov proceeded on his way" that begins after Simchas Torah⁶ also refers to "one's way" in regard to those matters left to one's individual choice, conduct not mandated by Torah Law, i.e., one's dayto-day mundane activities.]

הַחוֹל וִעַל אַחַת כַּמָּה וְכַמַּה בִּשַׁבַּת וְיוֹם-טוֹב

May we merit that on **every day** of the coming year - including the weekdays, and how much more so, on the Shabbasos and festivals

(כּוֹלֵל גַּם רֹאשׁ הַשַּׁנַה) וְיוֹם הַכְּפַּרִים),

(including Rosh HaShanah and Yom Kippur of the following year)

^{5.} The series of maamarim entitled VeKachah, 5636, sec. 96.

^{6.} Sichos Acharon shel Pesach, 5695 (published in Sefer HaMaamarim 5711, p. 240).

זיינען דורכגענומען כל עניניו, הן ענינים הכללים הן ענינים הפרטים, בנקודה העיקרית והפנימית דפנימיות ועצמות הנשמה, שהיא קשורה בפנימיות ועצמות א״ס ב״ה.

הָן עָנְיַנִים הַפַּרַטִים,

בּלְינֶען דּוּרְכגֶענוּמֶען כָּל all of one's matters – both his personal matters and those of a general nature – be permeated

with the fundamental and inner core, that of the innermost dimension and essence of the soul, דְּפְנִימִיוּת וְעֵצְמוּת הַנְּשָׁמֶה,

וְעַצְמוּת אֵין סוֹף בַּרוּךְ הוּא.

which is intrinsically bound up with the inner dimension and essence of the Ein Sof.

SUMMARY

Sec. 5 explained that the essential core of the Yom Kippur and Simchas Torah experience should be drawn down into the particular levels of Divine service a Jew performs throughout the balance of the year. This section continues that theme, asking for G-d's blessings that he be able to carry out the Divine service of "And Yaakov proceeded on his way," drawing down the essential dimension of the soul, which had been aroused during the month of Tishrei, into all aspects of his everyday life throughout the coming year.

ז) ומכיון שזה בא משמחת תורה, שמחה פורצת כל הגדרים, למעלה ממדידה והגבלהלד, הרי זה פורץ ומבטל כל הגדרים וההגבלות דגלות הפנימי, וכן הגדרים וההגבלות דגלות כפשוטו, וזוכים שבקרוב ממש יהי׳ ותחזינה עינינו בשובך לציון ברחמים, בגאולה האמיתית והשלימה ע"י משיח צדקנו, יבוא ויוליכנו קוממיות לארצנו במהרה בימינו ממש, ויבנהלה בית המקדש במקומו ויקבץ נדחי

— 7 **—**

מְשָּׁמְחַת תּוֹרָה,

דּמְבֵּיוָן שֵׁוֶה בָּא Since we are coming directly from Simchas Torah

שַׁשִּׂמְחָה פּוֹרֵצֵת כָּל מְמְדִידָה וְהַגְּבָּלַה,

and joy transcends all limitations and boundaries, breaking through all restraints, מַּעְלָה ies, breaking through

the rejoicing of that day empowers us to break בל הַגְּדַרִים וְהַהַגְבֵּלוֹת through and nullify all the restraints and limitations associated with our state of inner exile

וכן הגַדַרִים וְהַהַגַּבַּלוֹת

as well as all the restraints and limitations associated with exile in its literal sense.

בָשׁוּבָךְּ לְצִיּוֹן בַּרַחֲמִים,

And as a result, we will merit in the very near יהיה ותחוינה עינינו future the fulfillment of the prayer "May our eyes behold Your return to Zion in mercy,"2

עַל יָדֵי מִשִׁיחַ צִּדְקֵנוּ,

with the advent of the True and Ultimate בַּגְאַלָה הָאֵמְתִּית וְהַשְּׁלֵמֵה Redemption, led by our righteous Mashiach.

יַבוֹא וְיוֹלְיכֵנוּ קוֹממיוּת לאַרְצֵנוּ בַּמְהֵרָה בַּיַמֵינוּ מַמַשׁ,

May he come and lead us upright to our land speedily in our days,

build the Beis HaMikdash in its place, and gather וַיִּכְנָה בֵּית הַמְּקְרֵּשׁ בִּמְקוֹמוֹ ישראל וכוי in the dispersed of Israel.3

^{1.} See the maamar entitled Samach Tisamach, 5657, p. 49ff.

^{2.} The Shemoneh Esreh prayers.

^{3.} Rambam, Hilchos Melachim, the end of ch. 11.

ישראל (ועד אשר) אזלי אהפוך אל עמים שפה ברורה וגו' ולעבדולי שכם אחד, והיתהלי לה' המלוכה.

(וְעַד אֲשֶׁר) אָז אֶהְפּּדְּ אֶל (וְעַד אֲשֶׁר) May the Redemption then proceed (until)⁴ "I will transform the nations to a pure tongue... and⁵ וּלְעַבְדוֹ שְׁכֶם אֶחָה, they will serve Him with a single purpose."

מחליכָה. בְּמְלוּכְה לַה׳ הַמְּלוּכָה and "Sovereignty will be G-d's."6

SUMMARY

The *maamar* concludes with a prayer that the joy of Simchas Torah break through all boundaries, including the boundaries of exile, bringing about the Ultimate Redemption.

^{4.} Tzephaniah 3:9.

^{5.} In *Tzephaniah*, *loc. cit.*, the Hebrew word *le'avdo* is written without a conjunctional *vav* translated as "and." *Rambam*, however, cites the word with a *vav*. See the footnote in the letter of 13 Tishrei, 5736 (published in *Likkutei Sichos*, Vol. 14, p. 414).

^{6.} Ovadiah 1:21.

- יצא לאור בקונטרס מוצאי שמחת תורה ה'תשל"ח, עש"ק בראשית ה'תשל"ח. (*
- א) ד"ה ביום השמע"צ תרפ"ט. ד"ה עץ חיים תרצ"ט. ד"ה להבין ענין שמח"ת תש"ה ותש"ו.
- ב) שאז אין שייך ללמוד אותה. ובפרט ע"פ מרז"ל (גיטין ס, ב) דדברים שבכתב אי אתה רשאי לאומרן בע"פ.
 - ג) ואתחנן ד, ו.
 - ד) הל' ת"ת לאדה"ז פ"ב סי"ב-יג. וש"נ.
 - ה) אוה"ת שמע"צ ע' א'תשעט ואילך. ד"ה ביוהשמע"צ תרפ"ט ותש"ו.
 - ו) ד"ה ביוהשמע"צ שם.
 - ז) שהש"ר פ"ז, ב (ב.(
 - ח) לקו"ת שה"ש ו, ג. כב, ב. אוה"ת שה"ש ע' פט ואילך.
 - ט) סד"ה ביוהשמע"צ תרפ"ט, סד"ה להבין ענין שמח"ת תש"ו.
 - י). תשל"ח (תורת מנחם ספר המאמרים ח"א ע' קלד ואילך.(
 - יא) משנה ר"ה כו, ב.
 - יב) הל' תשובה פ"ג, ה"ד.
 - יג) אחרי טז, לד.
 - יד) דברי הימים-א כג, יג.
 - טו) סוכה כז, ב.
 - טז) סדור רסה, סע"א ואילך. המשך תרס"ו ס"ע לב. ובכ"מ.
 - יז) אמור כג, מ.
 - יח) סוכה לה, א.
- יט) סוכה לא, א. שו״ע אדה״ז סתרמ״ה ס״ב. ואף ששם הוא בנוגע להדר כפשוטו הרי ע״פ הביאור שגדל מהם מובן שגם הדר כפשוטו גדל מהם.
 - כ)ויק"ר פ"ל, יב.
 - .כא) זח"א קכט, סע"א
- כב) ראה ר"ן סוף מס' פסחים שענין ז' השבועות שמיציאת מצרים עד מתן תורה הוא מקור ענין שבעה שבועות תספר לך. וראה זח"ג (צז, ב) שביציאת מצרים הייתה צ"ל ההכנה והעבודה דז' שבועות קודם לקבלת התורה.
 - כג) פרש"י תשא לג, יא.
 - כד) ראה לקו"ת שבת שובה סה, א.
 - כה) לשוז הכתוב מלכים-א כב. מח.
 - כו) אוה"ת נצבים ע' א'רא.
 - כז) ראה לקו״ת ר״פ נצבים.
 - כח) לשון הכתוב מלאכי ג, ו.
 - כט) להעיר מחנוך לנער בסופו. אוה״ת להצ״צ ד״ה והוי׳ פקד (בראשית כרך ד ע׳ 1510 ואילך.(
 - ל) ע״ד המבואר בתניא רפ״ג.
 - לא) לשון הכתוב ויצא לב, ב. וראה שיחת אחרון של פסח תרצ"ה (נדפסה בסה"מ תשי"א ע' 240).
 - לב) וככה תרל"ז רפצ"ו.
 - לג) ויק"ר פ"ל, ז.
 - לד) ראה ד"ה שמח תשמח תרנ"ז ע' 49 ואילך.
 - לה) רמב"ם הל' מלכים ספי"א.
 - לו) צפני׳ ג, ט.
- לז) בצפני׳ שם: לעבדו (בלא וא״ו). אבל ברמב״ם שם (ועוד): ולעבדו (בוא״ו). וראה הערה במכתב י״ג תשרי תשל״ו (לקו״ש חי״ד ע׳ 414.)
 - לח) עובדי׳ א. כא.