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ר' אברהם יוסף שמואל אלטר בן ר׳ טוביי זייל ורעיזוו רישא רחל בח רי אברהם שלמה ע"ה

לעילוי נשמח

שבת קוורש פרשת כי תצא טי אלול תש"פ SHABBOS PARSHAS KI SEITZAI AUGUST 29. 2020

פלג הפנחה עש"ק - 6:12 | הדלקת נרות שבת - 7:17 | זפן קריאת שפע / פ"א - 9:03 | זפן קריאת שפע / הגר"א - 9:9 סוף זמן תפילה/הגר"א - 10:45 | שקיעת החמה שבת קודש - 7:33 | מוצש"ק צאת הכוכבים - 8:23 | צאה"כ / לרבינו תם - 8:45

היה אם לא חפצת בה ושלחתה לנפשה ומכר לא תמכרנה בכסף ... (כא-יד) - לא דברה תורה אלא נגד יצר הרע

באת בני שראל למלחמת הרשות שיש בה ג"כ מז המצוה. נצטווה העם שישמרו בעת המלחמה על גדרי הקדושה והטהרה בכדי שתשרה השכינה עליהם ולא תסתלק שכינה מישראל בפרט בזמניהם הדחוקים. כדכתיב: 'והיה מחניר קדוש ולא יראה בר זרות דבר ושב מאחריר'. הרי שבשמירת הקדושה זוכים להבטחה מפורשת מפי עליוז, הקב"ה ישרה שכינתו בינינו ובכך יצילנו מידי אויבינו ושונאינו ואף יתן אותם לפנינו. ומאידר גיסא כאשר חלילה אינו שורה רוח קדושה בקרב המחנה הרי זשכינה הקדושה מסתלקת מביניהם. ונמצא סכנה גדולה לכל העם בעצם סילוק השכינה כמפורש במקרא 'ושב מאחריר', כלומר שהשכינה הקדושה תסור כביכול מאחוריהם של ישראל ובהעדר כח הקדושה יחסר להם שמירה ממעל הדרוש להם

ולא יראה בך ערות דבר ושב מאחריך וגו' (כג-מו) -בענין המולול בצניעות מסלק השגחת השי"ת מאתו

 $\overline{oldsymbol{\Pi}}$ נה **החפץ חיים** כתב יסוד נפלא וז"ל, "הכתוב מדבר בענין הצניעות, ובקדושת המחנה. ונשתבחה בזה מדת הצניעות יותר מכל המדות המשובחות. עד שהקב"ה. ענש צל המדה הזה ב"ושב מאחריר". כלומר שיסלק חלילה השגחתו מזה שאינו מתנהג במדה זו, ולא אמר כן בשאר המדות. ללמדנו שזאת המדת הנעלה מכולן, ודדא ביה כולא ביה". עכ"ל. דברים נוראים. מי שאינו שומר עצמו ממדת הצניעות זוכה להשגחת שי״ת. אבל חו״ש מי שאינו שומר עצמו ממרת הצניעות הקב״ה מסלק השגחתו מעליו. ראות שום דבר רע. דאיתא בב"ב (נז. ע"ב): "ועוצם עיניו מראות ברע – א"ר חייא בר אבא: זה שאיז מסתכל בנשים בשעה שעומדות על הכביסה. היכי דמי? אי דאיכא רכא אחריתא. רשע הוא! אי דליכא דרכא אחריתא. אנוס הוא! לעולם דליכא דרכא אחריתא. ואפ"ה מיבעי ליה למינס נפשיה". ע"כ. ופי' **הרשב"ם** וז"ל. "רשע הוא – ואף על פי שעוצם עיניו שלא היה לו לקרב אלא להרחיק מן העבירה דקיימא לן חולין (דף מד:) הרחק מז הכיעור". עכ"ל, הרי מבואר דמי שיש לו דרכה אחרינא להלור ושלא

תמידות. ובפרט בשעת שהדיז מתוח עליהם כעת מלחמה. אז בימים ההם - קודם המצאת כלי מלחמה אשר ניתן להילחם בהם ממרחק מהאויר, היו אנשי הצבא נלחמים פנים בפנים מול שונאיהם, ומן ההגיון ושכל הישר היא כי לא יעלה על הדעת שיהו ראשם ולבם עסוקים בדברים אחרים שאינם מעניני

המלחמה. וכל שכז שלא יהיה זמנם בידם להתפתות אחר הנאות שווא וחמדות רעות. אלא את כל מחשבתם ותקוותם תולים הם האיך להינצל מאויביהם ולהישאר בין החיים. ברם אף בזמן סכנה זו מוצא עדיין היצר הרע העזה לבוא ולפתות את היוצאים מלחמה בנסיוז של אשת יפת תואר. בשעה שגלוי לכל איש ואיש את התוצאות הררסניות שיש בלקיחתה, הן שבסוף ישנאה כמו שאמרה תורה 'והיה אם לא

A SERIES IN HALACHA LIVING A "TORAH" DAY

Coronavirus: Relevant Halachos in These Trying Times (22)

Splitting Our School Minyan. Question: We have just begun,

B'ezer Hashem, the new school year. Until now we have had a

school *minyan* in one big *Beis Medrash*, with *Bar Mitzyah* boys

from Grade 8 dayening with younger boys from lower grades.

Each Rebbi davens in the rows of his class. This year, the local

health board has made restrictions and all the boys cannot *daven*

in the same room. The *Hanahala* wants to split the older boys,

which have enough for their own minyan, into one room and

have the younger boys, with their *Rebbeim*, in another room

with a short hall in between. The *Chazan* will stand in the hall.

seen by the *minyan*, and partly seen by the younger boys. This

way, all will be able to hear the Chazan. Is this situation

satisfactory? Are the *Rebbeim* of the vounger grades who are

with their talmidim, fulfilling the mitzvah of Tefillah B'tzibbur?

Answer: Whenever such type questions come up [similar to the

recent outdoor *minyanim*], we have to first differentiate between

creating a minyan and combining to a ready full fledged minyan.

To create a minyan with proper proximity is much harder in

Halacha than combining to a ready full-sized minyan, as in our

case. For one to be able to answer Kedusha, Kadish, Borchu,

etc., there really is no problem since he can hear what is being

said in the place of the *minyan*, the place of the *Shechina*. Most

Poskim hold that a person can fulfill Tefillah B'tzibbur since he

can hear what is being said in the place of the minyan. This

מאת מוה"ר ברוך הירשפלד שליט"א ראש כולל עטרון חיים ברוד סליבלנד הייטס

opinion is found in a number of Rishonim (see Meiri Pesachim 85b and **Sefer Habatim** Shaarei Tefillah Shaar 9:18). The **Aruch Hashulchan** (55:23) also validates this as *Tefillah* B'tzibbur. It is known that many Chassidish Rebbes are votzei *Tefillah B'tzibbur* in this manner.

Regarding the *Chazan* standing in the hall, it would also seem to be acceptable because it is not worse than what the **Shulchan Aruch** says (*Orach Chaim* 55:14) that two groups of five can combine to become a minyan when part of one group can see part of the other group (**Mishna Berura** 55:54).

Tefillah B'eis Tzara. Question: Is it appropriate at this time to add tefillos for Covid-19 to end and schools/yeshivos functioning properly throughout the coming year?

Answer: The **Ramban** (Hasagos of Sefer Hamitzvos Aseh 5) holds that anybody who finds himself in an eis tzara (dangerous circumstance) and doesn't daven to be saved, is mevatel a *Mitzvas Aseh.* The **Chinuch** rules the same way (*Mitzvah* 433). In many communities, the virus is still active and affecting people and also putting the function of schools in danger. This obligates us to daven. The following nusach has been suggested:

"יהי רצון מלפניד שתסיר מחלת קורונה מכלנו. ויוכלו מלמדי בתי הספר ללמד לתלמידים ותלמידות כל השנה בלא מפריע" "Please Hashem, remove the Corona virus from us all, and enable the Torah schools to teach their students without any disturbances."

בין הריחים - תבלין פדף היופי - עירובין דף יח:

"needs an explanation. Really it עקב" אינו נחרב.' The **Rif** שוב" סיוב" points out that the word "כל בית שנשמעין בו דברי תורה בלילה שוב אינו נחרב" should say any house that **Torah** is heard in it, אינו נחרב. He explains, this is telling us that even if ח"ר, there was already a איני נחרב. house, the Torah learning will save it. The אורג ר'] ועיני יצחק learns that since it says "נשכעיץ", heard, it means even if his learning is done next door, but the *Torah* is heard in his house, it will be saved. **R' Menashe Klein צליות** ח'ד, ס' ר] deals with a complaint of a neighbor who is being kept up at night by the קול תורה coming from the בית המדרש next door. Is this גזל שינה? R' Klein says there is no *issur* at all. Even if a lot of תלמידי חכמים are learning & making a loud tumult, it is *mutar* (as long as the noise is coming from learning). He brings our Gemara that says the sounds of Torah learning should be heard at night. Rashi explains specifically at night because sound travels farther in the quiet of the night. Why do we need it to travel, if not for the neighbors to hear it as well? אריד לייהר בלימוד [paskens: אריד לייהר בלימוד] "צריד לייהר בלימוד"? סנהדריו צב.ז "כל בית שאיו דברי תורה נשמעיו בו בלילה אש אוכלתו" מras ours משנ"ב The הלילה יותר מבשל יום". in ס' קנה] he brings many proofs & stresses how important it is to learn with a chavrusa or Chabura in the B.M. If so, we could learn our above בית שנשמעין ד"ת בלילה" could also mean the household hears & knows that the בעל הבית hat a בעל הבית bout learning *Torah* at night.

Chacham Rabbi Yosef Chayim of Baghdad zt"l (Ben Ish Chai) would say:

'בית' house) has the numerical value - 'כי תבנה בית חדש ועשית מעקה לגגך ולא תשים דמים בביתך כי יפל הנפל ממנו" of 412. The words 'מעקה גגך' (fence of your roof) is 241. By subtracting the latter from the former, we are left with 171, which is the *gematria* of 'המפל' (a faller.) The *Torah* is cautioning us that one who builds a new house should put a fence on the roof; otherwise, if he subtracts it from the house, i.e. does not put a fence on the roof, there will be "hanofeil" a "faller," and this is evident 'ממנו' (from it) - from the gematria of the word 'bayit' less 'ma'akeh gagecha."

A Wise Man once said:

"One of the great challenges of this world is knowing enough about a subject to think that you are right, but not enough about the subject to know that you're wrong."

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Mazel Toy to Ahuva Kushner and Eldad Ben Moshe on their wedding, and to the entire Kushner and Ben Moshe family. May they be zoche to build a bavis ne 'eman B'Yisroel

דרשע הוא, הרי קי"ל דכי האי גוונא מותר. ותרץ הח"ח וז"ל, "ונ"ל. דסברת הגמרא דבעריות מפני שנפשו של אדם מחמדתו צריר להחמיר יותר. דהגם שעתה חושב שלא ניחא ליה בהנאה זו. פז יתגבר יצרו עליו בעל כרחו ויבוא להרחר עי"ז. וכז מצינו בכמה ענינים שהחמירו יותר בעניני הסתכלות מכל האיסורים שבתורה אף בלא אפשר ולא מכוין, וכענין שאמרו בברכות אחורי ארי ולא אחורי אשה, פגע באשה בדרר רץ אחריה ומסלקה לצדדיז. ומשמע מדברי האחרונים באה"ע דאפילו לית ליה דרכא אחרינא למיזל ולא ניחא ליה בהסתכלות אפ"ה אסרו חז"ל והכל מטעם שכתבתי כנ"ל. ומ"ש רשב"ם דקי"ל הרחק מו הכיעור היינו בענינים כאלו שמצוי פתוי היצר וגם לעז הבריות מאוד". עכ"ל. הרי מבואר כמה גדול חומר איסור של הסתכלות בדבר ערוה שהחמירו כ"כ. שאם איכא דרכה אחרינא ואפילו לא ראה שום דבר ערוה, דרי הוא רשע! ומי שיש לו סמארטפאן ושאר כלים המשחיתים בלי פיילטער נחשב כאיכא דרכה אחריתא. וכדברי הגמ' רשע הוא. ומי שנזהר בזה בודאי יזכה להשגחת השי"ת כמו שכ' הח"ח, ויזכה לברכה והצלחה בכל מעשה ידיו. אכי"ר!

חפצת בה' פרש"י. הכתוב מבשרר שסופר לשנאותה. והו שיצא ממנה בו סורר

ומורה, וכמפורש בגמרא כי לכך סמכה תורה פרשת שתי נשים האחת אהובה

והאחת שנואה' ופרשת 'בן סורר ומורה' לפרשת אשת יפת תואר, לומר כי הנושא

את אותה האישה, הרי שבסוף ישנאה, ולא זו בלבד אלא אף יצא מהם בן סורר

ומורה. זאת מלבד עצם הדבר שצריכה שתבכה ותתנוול זה ירח ימים. אר עם כל

דאמר הגמ': מוטב שיאכלו ישראל בשר תמותות שחוטות ואל יאכלו בשר תמותות

נבילות. כלומר כי מבלעדי זאת שהיתה התורה מתירה היה ממילא לוקחה באיסור.

ע"כ בכדי שלא יעבור על איסורי תורה, ניתנה לו רשות לקחתה בתנאים מסויימים

כנבל ברשות התורה, והעיקר שלא יעבור על איסור מפורש שבתורה. מכאן נלמד

ונראה את גודל הזהירות הנדרשת לא ללכת אחרי עצות היצר הרע הטומז בחובו

מלכודת ופתיוז לתפוש בהם את האדם לדרדרו ולהביאו עד לשאול תחתית. הוא

בא אליו במילים מתוקות מדבש ומנופת צופים ובכר גוררו ומפתהו לעבור על רצון

בוראו. אשר סופו מי ישורנו וגורלו רע ומר כלענה. לא זה בלבד אלא אף השטז

שהחטיאו בא בעצמו לקטרג לפני כסא הכבוד על האיש שחטא. בתביעה כי צריר

להענישו כדבעי. ע"כ שומר נפשו ירחק ממנו ואל יכנס עמו במשא ובמתז בטענות

ובמענות, כי הוא מלך זקן וכסיל ובסוף יצודנו ברשתו בחלקלקות לשונו. לפיכר

יברח ממנו כבורח מפני האש. ובכר ינצל מעצותיו הרעות ומדרכיו המקולקלות.

וע"י שידע תמיד כי מולו עומד מלך זקן וכסיל אשר בקי ומלומד בתכסיסי מלחמה

להכשיל בני אדם ועושה עבודתו ותפקידו בנאמנות יתירה והכל בכסילתו

לראות דבר ערוה, רשע הוא אפילו אם אינו רואה שום דבר ערוה, על זה שהלן

והקשה הח"ח (הל' לש"ה כלל ו') על דברי הגמ' דהא קי"ל דהנאה הבא לו דאדם בע"כ, ואפשר (ליבדל מאותו הנאה) ולא מכויז דלכו"ע שרי. א"כ אמאי אמרה הגמ'

ובחכמתו המדומה, הרי יברח ממנו כבורח מפני אש ובל יתעסק עמו כלל וכלל.

באותו דרך כשהיה לו דרך אחרת לילך, מצד זה הוא רשע!

אמנם התורה כבר התירה לו לאחר שינשה עמה את הכתוב בפרשה. מטעם

זאת לא ימנע האדם מללכת אחרי עיניו ולקחתה לאישה.

מעשה אבות סימו

והיה לפנות ערב ירחץ במים וכבא השמש יבא אל תוך המחנה ... (כג-יב)

Among the many decrees that were issued by the evil Nazi government in the Ghettos, was the prohibition for Jews to immerse in a mikvah. The mikvaos were sealed (by the Germans) and on the door was affixed a note stating that opening the mikvah or using it will be considered an act of sabotage with punishment ranging from 10 years in jail to the death penalty.

However, the **Piaseczna Rebbe**, **R' Kalonymus Kalman Shapira** zt"l Hy"d, came to a firm decision: on the eve of Yom Kippur, a Jew must immerse himself in the mikvah. It was important for his purity. The objections from his close followers were of no avail. After a number of secret consultations between the *Rebbe* and the owner of one of the *mikvaos*, the decision was made. Towards dawn on the day of *erev Yom Kippur*, a time when the Jews were allowed to walk in the streets (to work). a small group headed by the *Rebbe* started their perilous march to the *mikvah*. Darkness still prevailed outside. It was a long distance from the Rebbe's house to the mikvah. They had ordered a rickshaw (a means of transportation in the ghetto) but it did not arrive. It was already ten minutes past five in the morning. They decided to walk on foot - maybe the rickshaw would arrive in the meantime. The rickshaw had been given strategic instructions and knew how to reach the place, which streets to use and where to stop. Some obstacle must had been put in its way, as unfortunately happened many times.

The group descended the staircase silently and then, an unforeseen event: the building's janitor, a non-Jew, was not interested in getting up at such an early hour to open the gate. He wanted to know why the Jews were up so early and where they were going. A big coin softened his heart and he agreed to open the gate. With deliberate steps, they walked in pairs, keeping a set distance between each pair. Their hearts beat like hammers, eyes tried to pierce the deep darkness of the night in order to detect any approaching shade. Suddenly, they heard the bell of the nightly streetcar approaching. They ran in the direction of the stop, but as they came closer, they saw that it was an Aryan streetcar, forbidden for the Jews. It was impossible to wait for a Jewish streetcar since this would take a long time. They walked from one street to another. Suddenly, the searchlights of a car dazzled their eyes. They remained standing in place, petrified. In these days, it is not desirable to encounter a car. In most cases you are invited to step inside, never to return... Luckily, the car passed by and continued on its way without stopping. Holding their breath, they passed by all the dangerous points and finally arrived at the building where the *mikvah* was located. The courtyard was dark. Mysterious shadows appeared close to the walls and disappeared in a side basement.

A secret messenger was standing there waiting for them. Silently, he directed their way. The Rebbe and his devoted followers went down into a dark basement. The door closed above their heads. They went groping in the dark. They received instructions to walk straight and then make a left turn. They reached an opening in the wall. With great effort, they pressed themselves through the opening. They were now standing on a heap of wood that looked like it was blocking their way, but after a successful leap, they found themselves in the corridor finally leading to the door of the *mikvah*.

Without taking into consideration the possible dangers involved, the *Piaseczna Rebbe* and his inspired group felt thrilled. In front of their eyes they saw a live picture of their forefathers in Spain, saving *Torah* scrolls from destruction or praying in underground synagogues out of fear of the inquisition. They certainly never imagined that 400 years later their grandsons would be in a much more difficult situation, and if they wanted to immerse themselves in honor of the festival they would have to go through a process full of dangers like in those days. In the mikvah, they saw a number of visitors who somehow had heard that the *mikvah* was to be opened for one hour. Quietly, in great haste, they all immersed ourselves in the *mikvah* in honor of the holy day of Yom Kippur. After a few minutes, they were on their way back through the basement just as they came.

Standing in the courtyard, they looked at the well-known poster: "Opening the mikvah or using it will be considered as an act of sabotage with punishment from 10 years in jail to the penalty of death." But they didn't feel deathly - they felt alive! They had just fulfilled a purifying *mitzvah* and those who lived to tell about it would never forget that experience forever.

תורת הצבי על הפטרות

רני עקרה לא ילדה ... כי רבים בני שוממה מבני בעולה (ישעי' גר-א)

Following the Nation's exile, Yerushalayim was left so barren that its former splendor was barely imaginable, while the cities of our enemies became glorified. In the fifth Haftorah of consolation, Yeshaya HaNavi exclaimed: "Rejoice barren one... for the children of the desolate one (Jerusalem) will be more numerous than the children of the married one (the kingdom of Edom)." Although it seems like an upbeat promise, it leads one to believe that Yerushalayim is still likened to an unmarried desolate woman who now suddenly has many more to care for. Why is that better?

R' Shamshon Raphael Hirsch zt" explains that some

marriages seem to be perfect while others seem horrible. Interestingly, if one took the time and examined them a bit closer, he might realize that the "perfect marriage" is really coming apart at the seams while the "troubled marriage" is really one of care, love, and devotion.

Even with all the horrible tragedies in Jewish history, Klad Yisroel always remained loyal and returned to Hashem with a renewed vigor. Each time a Jew sacrificed his life for his principles and ideals, the Nation's bond with *Hashem* became strengthened and the Almighty's love for His betrothed grew more and more. To superficial observers, the Jewish people might indeed look like a "desolate woman," but appearances can be deceiving since it is extremely far from the truth

CONCEPTS IN AVODAS HALEV FROM THE

The *Torah* issues a fascinating and thought provoking *issur* (prohibition). A person transgressed a terrible sin. It was ruled that he was chayav misah and sentenced to hanging. Says the posuk, "You must not leave him hanging overnight." In other words, even though he is dead and his *neshama* has left him, his *guf* should not remain hanging overnight. Why not? **Rashi** quotes the words of *Chazal*, using a famous parable of twins: one a respected king, and the other a bandit. The bandit was ultimately caught and hung for his crimes. The king commanded his officers to take his brother down from the gallows so that the people should not mistakenly think that their king was dead. So too.... The question on the analogy is obvious - two humans can have a case of mistaken identity but what does our tzelem Elokim have to do with Hashem's Shechina? Especially with regard to the punishment of such a sinner. He must've long ago lost his G-dly image!

My machshava here is as follows: Every person is endowed with a positive semblance (tzelem). It may become tainted over time as was the case with this fellow. However, says the *Torah*, deep down beneath all that grime and grease, the tzelem - that pure and holy image of G-dliness - is still intact. He may seem filthy on the outside, but the heilige Torah recognizes that the dirt is only superficial. Thus, deep down he is good and pure and doesn't deserve to be left hanging.

This thought should be mechazek us as we embark on our journey towards Teshuva during the Yimei Elul. Additionally. as the new school year or *yeshivah zman* begins, we must transmit this idea to our children. Some have made tremendous strides while out of the *yeshivah*. Others, may have suffered setbacks. Nevertheless, each person and each and every child retains his or her respective tzelem Elokim and is capable of achieving wonderful accomplishments. Kein Yehi Ratzon!

משל למה הרבר דומה ושם לה עלילת דברים והוצא עליה שם רע ... (כב-יד)

משל: An old man was standing outside his home one day and saw a traveler passing by. They struck up a friendly conversation and the old man learned that the traveler needed a place to stay. He graciously invited the man into his home to dine and spend the night. Of course, the fellow eagerly accepted the hospitality and came inside.

The host helped him with his bags and then went to the kitchen to find him something to eat. However, as the old man was preparing a delectable meal, the conversation turned to politics and the old man realized that this traveler had opposing views on politics and religion than he did. The two began to argue and neither man would concede to the other. This infuriated the old man and he asked the traveler to leave without giving him so much as bread to eat. EDITORIAL AND INSIGHTS ON THE MIDDAH OF __ שללללות

כי תצא למלחמה על אויביד ... (כא-י)

That night, the old man's wife heard what happened and was shocked. She asked him, "Why did you treat your guest so poorly?" The old man replied, "Because he obstinately opposed my views on politics and religion."

The wife sighed and said, "But, my husband, I have put up with your differences in opinion for sixty years. Couldn't you have endured him for one night?"

נמשל: Marriage is a solemn bond between man and woman and when there is peace and joy in the household, *Hashem* adds His Shechina to the mix and the home is complete. But even in such a perfect union, not always will the two sides see perfectly, eye to eye. Different strokes for different folks. But simply having a difference of opinion is no reason for intolerance, or worse, an opportunity to cause strife in the home. A husband and wife can have separate opinions but their love and respect for one another is what keeps them strong

> FROM THE WELLSPRINGS OF R' GUTTMAN - RAMAT SHLOMO

The *Torah* tells us that we must wage war against our enemies. Who are our enemies? Whoever is pulling us down and not allowing us to reach our potential. One of man's greatest enemies is negativity. Negative words create a negative feeling and can take a situation that is perfectly fine and destroy it. Converesly, positivity and focusing on what is good can truly change a "bad" situation into a good one! When someone goes out of their way to see the good in someone else, they are giving that person strength. This is the strength we all need to fight all the forces that pull us down. We can divide the word "מלחמה" into two. The word "מיל" means a mile, a measurement of distance. The word "חם" means warmth, from the word CHAMA which is the sun, the source of all light and warmth. The way to win the great war with the *yetzer hara* is to go that "extra mile" to see the light, the goodness, the positive in others and share the love, the warmth with a good word. This doesn't mean that the negative doesn't exist; it just somehow fades into the background, often even disappearing when the posituive is enlarged.

In the new book, "Just Love Them," **R' Dovid Trenk** zt"l says over a vort in the name of **R' Shimshon Pincus** zt"l. By the Akeidah, Hashem tells Avraham, "Take your son," and Avraham asks, "Which one?" Hashem says "Your only son," He says "I have two sons." Hashem says, "The one you love" and Avraham Avinu says, "I love them both." Finally, Hashem clearly tells him Yitzchok! The obvious question is: Does Avraham not know who *Hashem* is talking about? Could it be that he didn' know *Hashem* was referring to Yitzchok? The answer is that Avraham did NOT know! He saw the potential of Yitzchok and he saw the potential of Yishmael. He truly loved both of his sons the same because he only chose to focus on their strengths, on their positive attributes and on their great potential! And in the end, Yishmael did teshuva - of course he did teshuva! When you have a parent that only sees the good in you and believes in you, you will surely come home. We read this on Rosh Hashana to remind us how much *Hashem* truly loves us and sees our great potential. This is a great impetus for us to return to Him