

בס"ד

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ROSH HASHANAH EDITION

YEAR 3 WEEK 4

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Sweeter than honey is

לזכות רפואה שלימה אריה לייביש בן טויבא
לעילוי נשמת שאלתיאל איידיק שבגא בן חיים קלוימוס

This is not meant to rule practical *halachah*; rather it's to show the sweetness of learning.

Based on R' Yitzchak Zilberstein's seforim

Q. What A Chazzan!

"Taste The Sweetness!"

It was almost Rosh Hashanah, and the shul's gabbai was busy getting everything ready.

One thing he still needed was a chazzan who could lead the davening beautifully and inspire the entire shul.

He immediately thought of his good friend Avrumy. **Avrumy was known for his beautiful but VERY powerful voice. When he really raised his voice, everyone could hear him loud and clear!**

The gabbai called him. **"Avrumy, I have a big favor to ask you. Would you please be our chazzan for Rosh Hashanah?"** Avrumy knew it was a big responsibility, but he agreed.

Rosh Hashanah arrived, and the shul was packed. **Avrumy stood in front, surrounded by a thin glass frame, and began leading the davening. He put his entire heart into every word.**

Sometimes his voice was soft and emotional, and sometimes strong and powerful. **Everyone was listening and getting inspired.**

Then Avrumy reached one especially emotional part. **His powerful voice went louder and HIGHER until CRACK! Everyone looked around. The thin glass surrounding Avrumy had cracked from the powerful sound of his voice!**

After Rosh Hashanah, **Avrumy got his paycheck, but also a BILL... for the broken glass! Avrumy couldn't believe it. He called the gabbai and asked "A bill?! I was just davening, exactly like you asked me to!"**

The gabbai answered, **"That may be true, but YOUR voice broke it. Why should the shul have to pay?"**

Who To Ask?

A. **Of course to R' Yitzchak Zilberstein Shlita!** **Who makes Torah Learning so sweet & geshmak!!!**

"Taste The Sweetness!"

- 1) If he knew his voice could go so high and that it could crack a glass, **then he should have been more careful and must pay for the damage.**

As Chazal say, **"Adam muad l'olam," a person is usually responsible for damage he causes, even when he didn't mean to and it was a mistake.**

- 2) We even find in halacha (**Choshen Mishpat 390:9**) that if a person's rooster puts its head into a glass container to eat some seeds and then **crows so loudly that the loud sound breaks the glass, the rooster's owner must pay for the damage.**

So we see that even damage caused just by a powerful SOUND can be considered damage that one is responsible for.

- 3) However, if the chazzan didn't know his voice could go that high to crack the glass, it would be considered a total oh'ness (accident), and he would not have to pay.

"Feel The Sweetness!"

"Feel The Sweetness!"

He Is Always With You!

A police officer wanted to find a frum Yid breaking a traffic law so he could give him a ticket. All of a sudden, two Yidden drove by on a motorcycle.

The police officer followed them for a long time, waiting for them to do something wrong. **But they stopped at every red light, stayed within the speed limit, and followed every traffic law perfectly.**

Finally, the police officer got upset and pulled them over anyway.

"I've been following you for a long time, and you didn't do ONE thing wrong! You didn't speed, you didn't miss a light, NOTHING! How did you guys manage that?"

They smiled and said, **"Because Hashem is with us!"**

The police officer shouted, **"AH HA! GOT YOU! THREE people on one motorcycle!" and wrote them a ticket...!**

What's the lesson? One should feel that Hashem is with him so strongly and so REAL that he could almost get a ticket for having Hashem riding along with him!

We should try to live with the feeling, "Hashem is RIGHT HERE WITH ME" because he really is! (based on R' Shimshon Pincus quoting R' Uri Zohar zt"l)

This connects to Rosh Hashanah:

The Krechiner Rebbe ztl shared a powerful thought before blowing the shofar: The **halacha** is that one should not talk from the blessing on the shofar until after the final kaddish at the end of Mussaf (see Orach Chaim 592:3).

For most people, it's around 3 hours without taking a break and getting distracted just pure davening. **The Rebbe said that this gives a person an amazing opportunity to truly focus on connecting to Hashem through davening.**

These three hours should be the best three hours of the day, of your life, with no interruptions, just you and Hashem.

The rebbe continued, **"One can feel what life is really about and realize how good it is to feel alone with Hashem in one's thoughts. And maybe, after feeling "HASHEM IS WITH ME" so strongly on Rosh Hashanah, we can carry that feeling with us through the entire year!"**

Davening on Rosh Hashanah is longer, **but it's worth it!**

THANK YOU for even being alive³ to say THANK YOU!

The Rosh Yeshiva, **R' Burech Mordechai Ezrachi ztl**, was already very weak and not well shortly before he passed away in **2023**.

It was very hard for the Rosh Yeshiva to talk. He mouthed what he was saying, and sometimes it was very hard to understand what he was trying to say.

One day, he asked the talmid who was always helping him to please call his wife, the talmid's wife, so that the Rosh Yeshiva could speak to her.

With all the strength he had, the Rosh Yeshiva moved his mouth, trying to express the words he wanted to tell her.

R' Baruch Mordechai wanted to thank her for allowing her husband to give so much of his time to help the Rosh Yeshiva. He had been there for him so much, especially during his final illness, and had given up so much time, including Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur davening, and much more. He then gave her beautiful blessings.

The Rosh Yeshiva was so exhausted afterward that he had to put his head down. It had taken so much of his little remaining strength just to thank her and give her those beautiful brachos. But it was worth it to show how thankful he really was, as this is called real hakaras hatov, gratitude.

What's the Lesson: Greatness isn't only about doing BIG things. Greatness is pushing yourself to do what is hard for YOU!

Let's go out of our comfort zone. Push yourself! Our Gedolim are our role models who show us what REAL greatness looks like!

This connects to Rosh Hashanah:

On Rosh Hashanah, **R' Avigdor Miller ztl** used to say, "Let's first thank Hashem for the past year, and only then can we ask for another year!"

It's so important to be grateful for what we already have. **Only then can we appreciate what we will be given in the future!**

Before asking Hashem for **MORE**, let's first stop and say **THANK YOU** for everything He has already given us!

A Geshmaka Question & Readers Answers

This weeks geshmaka question:

Why do we blow shofar so many times on Rosh Hashanah?

Last week's Geshmake Question: In this week's parshah, we learn about the mitzvah of Bikkurim. Chazal say (Bereishis Rabbah 1:4) that one of the reasons Hashem created the world was for the mitzvah of Bikkurim. Bikkurim means bringing the first grown fruits to the Beis Hamikdash. Question: Why is this mitzvah so important that it is considered one of the reasons Hashem created the world?

M.W. Answer: Bikkurim is the mitzvah that brings out Hakaras hatov and if you if you chap and focus on the many goods hashem gives you you serve him better and with more devotion!

Ask your friend or Rav/Rabbi for an answer and it may appear here.
Text your answer in by Sunday to (347) 669 0369 or by email to torahissweeter@gmail.com

We Don't Know How Much Good We Can Do!

Rabbi Zechriah Wallerstein ztl had a very hard day when he got a phone call from one of his long-ago students' sisters. Many years earlier, this student, Rafi, was in Rabbi Wallerstein's class, and Rabbi Wallerstein used to give every boy in his class at his bar mitzvah a pair of tefillin.

A few years later, Rafi was struggling, and at a wedding, Rafi met Rabbi Wallerstein and showed that he was full of tattoos. But his left hand was clean of tattoos, "**Because of you, R' Wallerstein. You showed us how important it is to put on tefillin, so I decided that if I ever want to put on tefillin again, it should be clean.**"

A few years later, Rafi's sister called Rabbi Wallerstein. "**Do you remember Rafi?**"
"Of course! Is he okay? What happened?" R' Wallerstein asked.

She said, "**He just had a Jewish baby boy, and they made a bris.**"
"Wow, Baruch Hashem! I was so worried if he would marry a Jewish person." R' Wallerstein said.

"Let me tell you something even more special" the sister said: "**They named the baby Zechariah.**"

R' Wallerstein was shocked, "**But I'm still alive.**"

She said, "**They told everyone they liked this name, but really he did because of who you are; that's how much you mean to him. He named him after you because you didn't give up on him.**"

What's the lesson? When you start to help, you can never know the outcome.

We don't always see how much we affected others with the good we did. But we don't do it to see results; we do it because it's the right thing to do.

This Connects To Rosh Hashanah:

Why do we dip the apple in the honey?

Dipping the apple in honey is one of the highlights of Rosh Hashanah. The simple reason is that we say a prayer that we should have a sweet year.

Question: What is a deeper reason why we dip the apple in the honey?

Answer: Where does an apple come from? An apple tree. But really, it's from an apple seed. But what makes the apple tree grow and have fruit?

A little bee transfers pollen to the tree and allows it to blossom and produce the apples that we eat.

When we dip the apple into the honey, we are really saying this apple comes from this honey. Yes, behind the scenes, without you even realizing it, a little bee is helping build the world that you enjoy.
(Based on R' Zecharia Wallerstein ztl)

In life, as we start a new year, we need to think and realize: if a little bee has been doing so much for us behind the scenes, **how much more has Hashem been doing for us behind the scenes?!**
Something to think about.

May we all have a sweet new year with only blessings, and may we connect the dots and realize Hashem is always with us, even when it doesn't seem so, and feel Hashem's love!

Did You Know?

Chazal say:

If you judge **others** favorably, Hashem will judge **you** favorably!

We must even judge ourselves favorably. We are good, it's the yetzer hora that makes us crazy!

Accepting Whatever Happens - Is A Life Long Avodah!

R' Moshe Feinstein ztl would write his torah thoughts using a special pen and a bottle of ink. After writing, he would leave the papers on his table for the ink to dry.

Once, a few bachurim wanted to see the papers. **One bachur, by mistake, spilled the bottle of ink. The ink spilled across the table and all over the papers.**

All those hours of Reb Moshe's precious Torah writing were ruined.

The bachur was very afraid and didn't know what to do. Someone told him, **"You have to go to Reb Moshe and tell him what happened and say you're sorry."**

He was nervous, but he went, and Reb Moshe wasn't upset at all and very calmly told him: **"Don't worry about it. It's okay."**

Afterward, someone asked Reb Moshe how he was able to stay so calm after losing so many hours of work.

Reb Moshe said, **"It's true, I worked many hours on these papers, writing down my chiddushim. But I worked even longer on myself not to get angry! Everything is from Hashem. Why should I get upset?"**

What's the lesson? Life will have surprises, but how we react is EVERYTHING!

With emunah, we learn to get less angry and accept that everything is from Hashem and for our best. **But even Reb Moshe said it took him a long time to work on it. It doesn't happen overnight! It takes time and work, but we need to at least start and keep trying!**

This connects to Rosh Hashanah:

Story: Once, a fly was flying around the room where the Chazon Ish ztl was learning.

A few people were there, and one person kept trying to get the fly out. **But no matter how hard he tried, the fly kept flying around, and this person was getting very annoyed.**

The Chazon Ish told him, **"What do you want? It's a Rosh Hashanah fly!"**

We have to do our part, our hishtadlus. But after we tried our best, we have to remember that what happens is up to Hashem.

Even this little fly was already decided on Rosh Hashanah!

That's why Rosh Hashanah is such a powerful day, and why we daven so much. Let's use up this holy powerful day! What will happen throughout the coming year is decided on this day.

The Shofar - A Call For Help!!!

A new doctor was working late at night in a hospital. The night was quiet, with no emergencies for a long time.

A few doctors and staff members decided to go out for a long break but said, **"If any emergencies come in, call us back right away."**

At first, just one patient came in, and the new doctor treated him with care. **However, just a few minutes later, another patient arrived, and then another, all in need of care.**

The new doctor found himself running from patient to patient, trying to be there for everyone as much as he could.

After two hours of running from patient to patient, one patient didn't get the proper attention he needed, which sadly resulted in him passing away.

When the other doctors returned, **they were shocked to learn what happened.**

"Why didn't you call us for help?" they asked, still in shock.

The new doctor defended himself, **"It was impossible for me to do more; I was running around for two hours! I really tried my best to help everyone!"**

The other doctors answered, **"That may be true, but why didn't you reach out to us for help? We knew you wouldn't be able to handle everything on your own. That's exactly why we told you to call us!"**

What's The Lesson? When it comes to serving Hashem, sometimes we feel, **"It's too much! How can I always watch how I speak, what I hear, what I see, what I do, how I treat others, how I daven, how I learn...? It's so much!!!"**

But who said you are meant to be able to do it all on your own?

Ask Hashem for help! "Hashem, please help me daven better. Help me learn better. Help me watch what I say. Help me do what is right!"

We have to try our best, but we don't have to do it alone. ASK HASHEM FOR HELP! (Based on R' Shimshon Pincus ztl)

This connects to Rosh Hashanah:

We blow the shofar, and it is a very holy mitzvah, with many deep reasons behind it. We crown Hashem as our King, like blowing a horn for a king.

But the sound of the shofar is also a cry for help. It's a sound coming from the deepest part of our soul, crying out, "Hashem, please help us! Save us!"

Because we cannot do anything without Hashem's help, NOTHING!

The shofar wakes us up to this great truth: We need to try our very best, but we still need Hashem's help EVERY step of the way!

Even If You feel Like You Are Not Accomplishing...!

It was the first year that the **Pnei Menachem of Gur** became Rebbe, and there was an older chassid, R' Tzadok, who had been blowing the shofar on Rosh Hashanah for many years. **Everyone was waiting to hear him blow.**

R' Tzadok made the bracha with great emotion, **but as he tried to blow, no sound came out. He tried again and again, but no matter how hard he tried, nothing came out.**

Someone else had to take over.

After davening, the Pnei Menachem thanked R' Tzadok and said, **"The second person blew beautifully, but your blowing was even more beautiful!"**

"But Rebbe, I didn't even end up blowing anything!"

The Pnei Menachem explained that Chazal (**Berachos 6a**) say that if a person **tried** to do a mitzvah and in the end wasn't able to do it, **he is rewarded as if he actually did it.**

And The **Noam Elimelech** says that a person who wanted to do a mitzvah but wasn't able to do it **receives even more reward!**

Question: But the Pnei Menachem asked: Why could someone who didn't actually do the mitzvah deserve even **MORE** reward?

Answer: Because when a person does a mitzvah, there can sometimes be thoughts of Look at me! I did such a great mitzvah! I'm such a tzadik," **there is personal honor involved.**

But when someone truly wants to do a mitzvah but isn't able to, there are no thoughts of honor, **since no one even saw him do any mitzvah because he wasn't able to do it in the end; there was only the pure desire to do the mitzvah. That's why wanting to do a mitzvah can even be greater than actually doing it!**

"That's why your trying to blow the shofar was more beautiful than the actual blowing."

The Rebbe also thanked R' Tzadok for the bracha he made on the shofar, which was full of yiras Shamayim.

What's the lesson? So many times in life, we try so hard to do the right thing, but we still mess up.

But Hashem sees how hard we tried! If you try your best, you are the best!

Even if you fail a test and feel like you didn't accomplish anything, if you really tried your best, you get a 100 in Heaven!

So when a new year is coming, and we think and try to accept how we will improve this year, even if we don't do everything that we actually wanted to do, **if we really had in mind to try to be better, we will get rewarded for the good thought; again, we must try actually to do good.**

Still, sometimes we are so busy that it feels almost impossible, but never give up on trying to become better! Your good thoughts are powerful! Sometimes the desire to be good is even greater than you can imagine!

This connects to Rosh Hashanah:

Why don't we blow the shofar on shabbos?

This year we don't blow the shofar on the first day of Rosh Hashanah, because it falls on Shabbos.

Why don't we blow the shofar on Shabbos? **The answer** is because we are afraid that some Yidden who don't know how to blow the shofar properly may carry their shofar to ask a Rav how to blow it properly or whether their shofar is kosher.

Question: So the entire Klal Yisroel doesn't get to do this special mitzvah because a few Yidden might make a mistake?!
The shofar brings so many blessings with it! **Why do ALL of us have to lose out because of them?!**

Answer: Because Chazal (Berachos 6a) say that if we really wanted to do a mitzvah and in the end couldn't do it, **like blowing shofar on Shabbos, Hashem considers it as if we did do it!**

And as the **Noam Elimelech** explained, **our desire to do a mitzvah can be even more holy when we truly wanted to do it but couldn't!**

We never lose out by helping another Yid! **By not blowing the shofar on Shabbos to protect another Yid from making a mistake, Hashem considers it as if we blew it. And according to the Noam Elimelech, our pure desire and wish to do the mitzvah, without receiving any honor from actually doing it, can be even more precious and accomplish more than the actual blowing!**

Did you understand what you just heard? By not blowing the shofar this year, we actually **accomplish more than we do in a regular year of Rosh Hashanah, all because we show our care for another yid!**

Dear "Sweeter Than Honey" Reader:

The feedback is amazing.

Geshmaka R' Zilberstein Q & A

Practical lessons for life from our holy Torah and our Gedolim.

A good **Joke** can't hurt either, especially **with a good lesson**.

You have read it; now you can help us by sponsoring a week.

As the new year begins, the 3rd year, THANK YOU HASHEM, help us by sponsoring a week for a special occasion or just to help spread sweetness.

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WHAT A ZECHUS - GRAB THE ZECHUS!

Thank you to all those who have sponsored a week and helped make it possible to keep printing each week; the zechus is yours forever!

Thank you to all the volunteers for distributing SWEETER THAN HONEY week after week. Hashem should give you all a sweet year! Wishing all of Kal Yisroel the sweetest year they've ever had!

A Joke With A Lesson

A person who was very overweight went to his doctor and said, "Doctor, I need to lose weight, but every diet you give me is too hard!"

The doctor said, "Okay, let's make it simple. Eat whatever you normally eat, but only eat HALF. A sandwich? Half. A piece of cake? Half. This should be good start!"

"THAT I can do!" he said. A few months later, he came back. The doctor looked at the scale and couldn't believe it. "You GAINED weight! Did you listen to what I told you?" "I did!" the man said. The doctor said, "Then how did you gain so much weight?"

"I don't know, the man said. Maybe I shouldn't have been eating the other halves too..."

What's the lesson? A diet isn't going to work if we keep cheating and messing up. But in avodas Hashem, it's different! Even when we slip and mess up, we can use our mistakes to grow, come back stronger, and make them part of our journey!

A teacher was teaching math, held up an apple, and asked, "If I cut this apple into two pieces, what is each piece?"

"Half!" the class answered.

"And if I cut it into four pieces?"

"A fourth!"

"Very good!!!" the teacher said. "Now what if I cut this apple into a THOUSAND pieces? What would it be?"

Yanky yelled out "APPLESAUCE!"

What's the lesson? Sometimes in difficult times in life, we feel like we are being cut into thousands of pieces, but we don't always realize that those difficult times can help us become even better than we were before!

Short Stories and Inspiration.

R' Matisyahu Salomon ztl was busy from morning until night, and people had to make appointments even very early in the morning, just to meet with him

**What
Hat
Do You
wear?**

One morning, right before a meeting, R' Matisyahu said that he first needed to take care of something. He went to the kitchen and prepared an egg, two slices of bread, a hot drink, a beautifully peeled orange, and even a folded napkin for his wife, the Rebbetzin.

When he saw the surprised look on his talmid's face, he said, "The Mashgiach needs to wear different types of hats. Sometimes he's a fireman, a policeman, a therapist, and sometimes he has to wear a chef's hat!

The Rebbetzin isn't feeling well. My daughter is supposed to come in 45 minutes, but why should the Rebbetzin have to wait that long? I'm going to bring this up to her now, and I'll be back down soon."

What's the lesson? Sometimes life gives us a comfortable hat to wear, and sometimes we have to wear a hat for the bumpy times. But the main thing is to remember that IT'S OKAY, and it will BE OKAY! Trust Hashem that in the end, everything will work out exactly the way it's meant to be BEST for YOU!

This connects to this week's parshah:

We learn in Parshas Nitzovim that, "It will be when all the things come to you, the blessings and the curses... and you should **take it to your heart.**"

Life has all different types of situations, and all of them can be used to help a person grow! *Even moments that feel like a curse* can be used to become more humble, kinder, and a nicer person who feels and cares for others. But this will only happen if we **take it to heart** and realize we must think about how we can grow from it! (Based on R' Yonason Eibeshitz ztl)

Being A Sweet Yid!

One Rosh Hashanah, in the home of a holy Tzadik, **everything was going wrong, one thing after another.** The Kiddush cup spilled on the tablecloth before Kiddush; the challah fell on the floor while he was trying to cut it; on and on, the problems just kept coming.

His Rebbetzin became worried. Maybe it was a bad sign for the coming year? But the Tzadik said, "The main siman is to be happy; the food is to get us to be happy, but if we are happy even when things can go wrong, then what can be a better sign for a great new year? (The Nesivos Sholom told this story.)

What's the Lesson: People in Yerushalayim would say, "If an apple dipped in honey is a sign for a sweet year, then for sure, if a person is a 'sweet Yid,' by keeping a smile on his face, even when things go wrong, and by greeting others warmly, what better sign can there be for a sweet new year?"

The Beis Aharon of Karlin said, "The way to get a good judgment is by being united with other Yidden." By being a "sweet Yid!" Smile at others, greet them warmly, be good to them, and don't forget to smile at yourself too!

In life, especially Rosh Hashanah, things won't always go exactly as planned. Remember that the BEST siman is to be HAPPY (at least try your best...!) even when things don't go our way, and be a SWEET YID!