

Rosh Hashanah

Of all the beings in the physical and spiritual realms, only our relationship to God stems from a free will conscious decision. God has given to each of us the possibility to consciously acknowledge the unity of God through our own thought processes, and to relate to Him as our one and only King. Of all of God's creatures, we alone can choose to accept God's sovereignty and dominion or ignore it.

Our link with God comes from our choice. On Rosh Hashanah we affirm our choice by Crowning God as our King. The celebration is only two days. But in the coming year our choice is to live under God's kingship every moment. This is an expression of our true will and not an imposition on our true will.

When we live in way that we are God conscious, we are living under God's kingship. When we live in a way that we are not conscious of God, we have removed ourselves from our choice to live under God's kingship and we have removed ourselves from God.

When we live in a way that we are God conscious, we not only express unity with God in our life, but by our living we light a candle that helps suffuse the entire world around us with an awareness of God's unity.

Our Chassidic sages teach that G-d created the world because He

desired a dwelling place in the lower worlds

In order for this desire to be completely realized, the establishment of a dwelling place requires not only that Godly energy be extended into those lowly realms, but also that those realms be aware of the Godliness in their midst and accept it. Only then is God's dwelling place in the lower worlds complete.

What are we going to do to help make our world a place for God's dwelling? This brings us to Tshevah, the 10 days from Rosh Hashanah to Yom Kippur, the day of Judgment. One basic meaning of Tshevah is to return. We ask forgiveness for our mistakes and we resolve not to make those mistakes again. And by this means, we return. And this return helps make our world a place for God's dwelling.

But our return involves our resolve not to make those mistakes again. Each of our past mistakes had as an essential component a momentary loss of our God consciousness, a momentary loss of our God centeredness, a momentary loss of our love for our Holy King, blessed be He. Our resolve must

have as its essential component that we no matter what our situation, no matter what others may be saying or doing to us, we will not lose our God consciousness, we will not lose our God centeredness. We will maintain our equanimity and our inner peace. For when we are conscious of God what could possibly happen to upset us?

Every situation has its appearance and its essence, its outside and its inside. When we get upset we have interpreted the appearance and given it an essence not connected to God. When that happens we lose God consciousness. Thus part of our resolve not to make mistakes in general and not to make the kind of mistakes we have made this past year, must be to not interpret any appearance as something without a Godly essence, as a secular media reporter might do. We must resolve that we will interpret every appearance in terms of its Godly essence.

Because of our Rosh Hashanah celebration of the Crowning of God, we are especially open to hear the Divine voice. Let us listen.

If you want to maintain consciousness of Me, you must parallel My transcendence. In love for Me, your King, you must transcend the appearance of each of your situations. You must regard the appearance as a sacred and unique entranceway, an entranceway in time that I have especially created for you. This entranceway, is the holy entranceway that can make the lived moment eternal.

Transcending does not mean finding the inherent essence of the appearance as if the inherent essence is independent of your consciousness. You are a living being. I created you in My image. The meaning of the appearance is governed by your consciousness. You are free to choose it as you like. You are free to be conscious of it as you like. This is your freedom, freedom that I give as a gift to you.

You can be conscious of the appearance only in terms of the cultural values of your society. You can give it an ordinary culturally acceptable meaning. You can be conscious of it only as mechanical cause and effect, as if My hand had nothing to do with it. Or, you can express your love to Me by transcending the appearance.

Listen to Me. Make it your resolve in the next year to go through the holy entranceway of each moment, for it is a beginning to eternity, by being conscious of Godly essence and not appearance.

Give that appearance the meaning of the essence of My Divine Kingship. Make that appearance holy and sacred to you. This is how you will have God consciousness. This is how you will be conscious of my Kingship. This is how you can make your world My dwelling place. This is my Oneness. This is how you must love Me.