



# Proceeding Beyond our Past

With the approach of Rosh Hashona and the start of a new year, our Cheshbon Hanefesh that we have been doing throughout Elul comes to an end. By this time one has possibly reached many stark conclusions regarding his *Avodah* and actions in the preceding year. To put it mildly, things were just not the way they should have been. Very often we lost focus and direction letting the ship drift off course. Physical aspirations became our primary concern, and our mission, for which we were sent down into this world, namely building a *Dirah B'tachtonim*, was at times ignored.

In such a state one dare not approach the king. It would be disgraceful for such a person to show his face in a palace surrounded by loyal and trusted men. Would a rebellious-runaway slave have the nerve to enter the throne room?

One does not even have the *Chutzpah* to stretch out his hand and beseech the king's mercy.

Yet it comes Rosh Hashona and Hashem turns to his people and implores from them, "*Tamlichuni Aleichem*", I need you to crown me as your king once again.

And although we feel unfit for such an important task, Hashem provides us with the tools necessary to do this. He lifts us up from whatever state we may be in - completely overlooking our past deeds - giving us the ability to fulfill his wish.

Indeed, as we all know the famous *Moshul* of Elul by the Alter Rebbe - the king is in the field. He is there making himself available for everybody even those subjects of his whose actions are not up to par, they are lost in the field.

On our part, we need to have real remorse and regret

over our past actions and behavior. Leading to a firm and determined decision that we will change and improve our ways. Following the central theme of Rosh Hashona, this is being *Mekabel Ol Malchus Shomayim*. Everything that we will do in the upcoming year will be with *Kabbolas ol*, putting our own wants and desires on the side.

Doing this, along with taking upon ourselves a *Hachlota* for the new year, the Rebbe assures us that we will be guaranteed all the *Brochos* for the new year, **especially** those who are connected to the Rebbe.

In a letter dated 16 Elul 5710 the Rebbe addresses the *cheshbon hanefesh* of Elul and the *Avodah* of Rosh Hashona and then concludes:

(It is strongly advisable to learn the whole letter inside the original. Igros Kodesh Vol. 3 page 543)

[Free translation]

*We have to know that we had a great Rebbe and now as well we have a great Rebbe - the Frierdiker Rebbe, who requested and continues to request for Brochos on our behalf, especially those connected to him.*

*The Rebbe knew, and knows the weaknesses of the men and women amongst the Chassidim, yet despite this he davened and davens for them that they should have that they need... And that Hashem should forgive all their sins, taking into consideration the circumstances that they find themselves in and the tests that the Yetzer HOrah presents them.*

*Subsequently we should all make a commitment that we will be better in the future, and the commitment itself will draw down all the Brochos...*

In light of the above, it is quite evident what our approach to Rosh Hashona should be. Let's insure that we use out every precious moment to its fullest. ■

This article is adapted from Sichas Shabbos Parshas Nitzovim 5711 and Igros Kodesh Vol. 3 page 543.