



GROW AND GIVE

In this sicha of Chamisha Asar B'Shevat, Shabbos parshas Beshalach 5747, the Rebbe states that man must learn from the tzomeach within him, to constantly grow in avodah and to never stop influencing others.

Chamisha Asar B'Shevat is a yom tov; we don't say *tachanun* and celebrate with eating fruits.

The reason the trees' new year is a yom tov for Yidden is that man is compared to a tree, as the Gemara interprets the *possuk* "Ki ha'adam eitz hasadeh."

This comparison of a person to a tree, whose qualities of life and speech are superior to the tree's value of growth, is unusual; especially considering that the *possuk* doesn't simply compare them, but very clearly says "man is a tree."

Yet, the comparison of man to a tree is based on the following factors:

Every creation is unique in its own way. We can learn something special from each one. "לא ברא הקב"ה בעולמו" - Hashem did not create anything in vain, and "לא בראו אלא לכבודו" - everything was created for Hashem's honor.

The unique value of vegetation is represented in its name—*tzomeach*—translated as "growth" in present tense—constant development; as opposed to man, who only grows in childhood and adolescence. It also reproduces throughout its life, as opposed to man who only reproduces up to a point.

However, being an "*olam katan*," man has an element of *tzomeach* within him.

These two points—that there is a *tzomeach* in every person and the fact that we must learn from it—explains the comparison in the *possuk*.

The *tzomeach* within man gives him strength to constantly grow in *avodah* — as Chazal say, "תלמידי חכמים אין להם מנוחה שנאמר ילכו מחיל אל חיל יראה אל אלקים בציון..."

Aside for personal growth, the *tzomeach* within us also gives us the capacity for sustained influence, even on non-Jews.



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לזכות התמים מנחם מענדל בן הרה"ת חיים צבי שי'
לרגל הגיעו לעול מצות ביום י"ז טבת תשע"ו

Chazal say, "כל המלמד את בן חברו — כאלו ילדו" — teaching Torah to another is a form of birth.

As such, the *tzomeach* enables man to reproduce throughout his life, even gaining strength in old age.

Being the trees' "Rosh" Hashanah, in that it contains its entire year—as the general Rosh Hashanah does for all of creation—Chamisha Asar B'Shevat is a day to restart the *avodah* of constant growth and influence, which should continue throughout the year.

Constant growth and sustained influence are always something to work on, but we are given a special *koach* to develop them on Chamisha Asar B'Shevat. Most importantly, on this day Hashem provides us with the *koach* to reach an infinitely higher level of *avodah* than before.

This *koach* lasts until the following year, when a new *koach* will enable man to climb even higher. **T**

