

This Yom Kippur, Don't Spill the Water | RABBI JASON WEINER

The primary focus of the *Tishrei Yom Tov* period tends to be the awe-inspiring days of *Rosh Hashanah* and *Yom Kippur*. This is certainly understandable. After all, we spend the entire month of *Elul* preparing ourselves for *Rosh Hashanah*, and the *Aseret Yemei Teshuva* building up to *Yom Kippur*, the pinnacle of spirituality. What can possibly follow these holidays? It almost seems as if *Sukkot*, the next holiday, is being short-changed. We put so much energy investing ourselves into *Rosh Hashanah* and *Yom Kippur* that anything that follows might

be perceived as a let-down. However, if we see *Sukkot* within the context of the entire month of *Tishrei*, we can better appreciate the true depth of this magnificent season.

A fascinating *Mishnah* in *Sukkah* compares rain on *Sukkot* to a master rejecting his servant by splashing the servant's face with water! This *Mishnah* requires much explanation, and indeed, the commentators offer various approaches.

One particularly brilliant insight offered by the Vilna Gaon sheds important light on the significance of the en-

tire *Tishrei* period. The Gaon explains that the aristocracy used to sit on grand chairs holding a cup of water, and their servants would pour a given amount of undiluted wine into the cup, depending on how potent the master liked his wine. If the master poured the water out of his cup, he would be left with nothing but unpalatable concentrated wine.

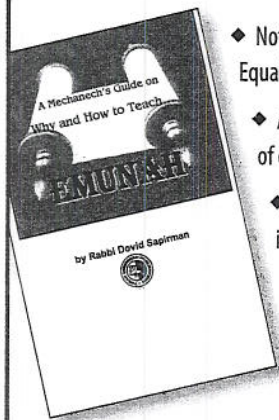
Similar to the master's concentrated wine, one can conceptualize the period of *Rosh Hashanah*, *Aseret Yemei Teshuva* and *Yom Kippur* as concentrated Judaism. During this period, a Jew can get

Torah Umesorah Publications

proudly presents an eye-opening booklet,

"The Mechanech's Guide on Why and How to Teach Emunah"

by Rabbi Dovid Sapirman



- ◆ Not only for mechanchim!
Equally **relevant** for parents too
- ◆ A startlingly **realistic** view of the state of our generation's youth
- ◆ **Acclaimed** by hundreds since its recent publication
- ◆ Also available: an accompanying 'must-hear' audio CD of a Torah Umesorah Convention workshop delivered by the author.

To purchase, call TORAH UMESORAH PUBLICATIONS
at **718-259-1223**

Purchase price: Booklet - \$7 / CD - \$2

MA'AMINIM LECTURE SERIES

by Rabbi Dovid Sapirman

*These CD lectures have proven compelling and inspiring,
a virtual course in fundamental Emunah*

KNOW WHAT TO ANSWER TO YOURSELF

- A compelling substantiation of the existence of a Creator and Torah MiSinai
- Resounding *haskamah* from Rabbi Joseph Elias, shlita

THE ORAL TORAH: DIVINE & ETERNAL

- A clear and concise substantiation of Torah Sheb'al Peh (Oral Torah) from heaven

UNRAVELLING THE MYSTERIES OF DIVINE PROVIDENCE

- A basic understanding of human suffering, reward and punishment, "tzaddik v'ra lo" and the Holocaust

Choice of CDs or MP3

A total of 24 hours of Chizuk in Emunah

CDs \$35 per set / \$90 for all three sets
MP3 \$26 per set / \$65 for all three sets

To order call **416-823-9241**
or email dsapirman@gmail.com

Similar to the master's concentrated wine, one can conceptualize the period of Rosh Hashanah, Aseret Yemei Teshuva and Yom Kippur as concentrated Judaism.

a powerful taste of true spirituality and deep connection with the Divine that can serve as an inspiration for the rest of the year. Nevertheless, a Jewish life focused exclusively on *teshuva*, deep introspection, and fasting would not be feasible. It is challenging enough to treat these few days with true seriousness and trepidation. Spending the entire year in this sort of unchecked intensity would be too difficult for most people to swallow.

For this reason, explains the Vilna Gaon, *Yom Kippur* must be followed by *Sukkot*. On *Sukkot* it is a *mitzvah* to be happy, to enjoy the delight of God's presence and the ability to connect to holiness through joy and our physical surroundings. Fear and reverence of God are absolutely fundamental, but without emotional love of God, the relationship cannot be maintained.

This understanding sheds light on the *Mishnah*. If it rains on *Sukkot* and we are forced to spend the holiday indoors, we miss out on the full *Tishrei* experience. It is as if our Master has spilled out the diluting water from the heavenly cup He has prepared for His children, leaving us only the concentrated "wine," the intensity of *Rosh Hashanah* and *Yom Kippur*, without the joyful, celebratory aspects of *Sukkot* to help balance the "flavor."

Hakadosh Baruch Hu created for us a complete system whereby we train ourselves not only in the appropriate seriousness needed to be a religious individual, but how to temper it with the proper happiness and celebration of life required to manifest our religious inspiration throughout the year. *Rosh*

Hashanah, Yom Kippur, and Sukkot are mutually dependent holidays that are meant to join together in a harmony of emotions.

This year, as we prepare for the *Yomim Noraim*, may we focus ourselves properly for the entire spectrum of these "days of awe," developing within ourselves an appropriate balance between serious intensity and joyful celebration that makes a religious life so wonderful!

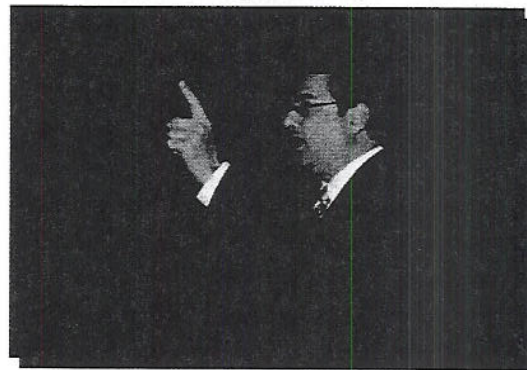
Rabbi Jason Weiner is the Jewish Chaplain, at Cedars-Sinai Medical Center.

703

"The Only Goal of Trial Is to Get Money for Your Client."
- David A. Ball, Ph.D.

Are you in need of an *Aggressive* Lawyer?

**If you have a really *tough* case, then you need
a really *tough* lawyer ...**



**Get *tough* with:
Baruch C. Cohen, Esq.**

TRIAL ATTORNEY

Conveniently Located in Hancock Park
Telephone: (323) 937-4501
Email: BCC4929@aol.com

Proven Trial Experience You Can Trust

Business Litigation Trials Are Taken to Verdict. Over 16 Years of Experience

Gearing up for the Onslaught of Corporate Bankruptcies