

# ראש השנה

## Our Joy, His Malchus

אֲשֶׁרֵי הָעָם יוֹדְעֵי תְרוּעָה ה' בְּאוֹר־פְּנֵיךָ יְהִלְכוּן: (סדר תקיעת שופר)

*Praiseworthy are the people who know the Shofer cry, Hashem by the light of Your face they walk*

We say this Posuk before Tekias Shofer. It is in praise of Klal Yisroel because they are “יוֹדְעֵי תְרוּעָה”. Meaning that Klal Yisroel are in awe of this Day of Judgment on Rosh Hashanah because they understand the severity of the Judgment and how much of their lives depend on it.

The other words in the Posuk “בְּאוֹר־פְּנֵיךָ” *by the light of Your face* refer to the Simcha and joy that we feel as we bask in the presence of Hashem.

Asks the Netziv, how can we feel happy to be in Hashem’s presence when we are aware of the severity of the Judgment taking place?

A boss of a very big corporation once found out that one of his best workers had been negligent in his job; let’s call this worker Shimon. Because of Shimon’s careless mistake, the company lost a huge amount of money. He would have to be disciplined; possibly even fired. The problem for the boss was that Shimon was one of his most loyal and trustworthy workers. So he didn’t want to be too harsh on such a good worker, but what choice did he have?

In the end, he decided to push off making a decision for a while – maybe with time he would come up with a solution.

A short while later the boss started to plan his yearly inspection of the entire plant. Every year he would visit each part of his great big operation and would personally meet each of his workers and would compliment each person for the good work that they were doing. As he planned his itinerary, he decided that when he would see Shimon on this visit, he would decide his fate.

As you can imagine, all the workers were very excited for big boss's visit. Some of newer ones had never even seen the big boss and now they would have a chance to greet him personally!

They decided to put together a grand welcome for the boss for when he would make his rare visit. Balloons, posters, party poppers and music were arranged and they set it all up in preparation for his visit.

When the boss entered the factory, he was surprised to be greeted with cheers from all his loyal workers. He was clearly overwhelmed with this unexpected warm and happy welcome. Out of the corner of his eye he could see that Shimon too was cheering and clapping with great joy.

On the spot, the boss decided that he was so touched by Shimon's loyalty to him; he would only give him a very light consequence for that one-off negligence of his.

As the King of the world, our Big Boss, Hashem, has a yearly day of judgment. It is a day when He sees what each person has been doing with his time and his talents, and based on that, He judges him for the following year.

But since Hashem loves Klal Yisroel, He didn't want this Day of Judgment to be just anytime. He planned it so that this day would be

on the same day that Klal Yisroel would be rejoicing over His Kingship. Then, when Hashem sees them so happy to be His subjects, He will judge them more favourably.

It is indeed a Chessed of Hashem that on Rosh Hashana, the birthday of the world, as we rejoice over His Malchus we are also judged.

This is what the words “באור־פְּנֵיךָ” *by the light of Your face* are referring to. It is the joy that we feel over His Malchus. When we are able to feel this joy then it will be a Zechus for us at such a time of Judgment.