



Tiferet

ת פ א ר ת



TIFERET UPDATES

This Week in Tiferet

Yom Tzom Kippur - As always, Tiferet was open on Yom Kippur and most of our students stayed in Tiferet for the Tzom, and davened in our own Beit Midrash. They were grateful to be able to have a beautiful, inspiring davening in their own “home away from home.”

Bein Hazmanim Begins – On Monday, our students had a special Yom Iyun about the chag of Sukkot, preparing them for the Simcha of the day. In addition, they traveled to the beautiful women’s beach on Chof Ashdod, to enjoy the beautiful end of summer in Eretz

תורת תפארת

Simcha Lifnei Hashem **Rav Elli and Mrs. Pasha Fischer** **Chag Sukkot**

A well-known idea, articulated by R’ Soloveitchik, is that the Simcha of Yom Tov derives from the existential state of being ‘lifnei Hashem’. True joy, for the Rav, is only in the Presence of God.

There are different variations within this idea, depending who you ask. *Lifnei Hashem* might be the ultimate *simcha*, the true *simcha*, the only *simcha*, or the state which triggers the obligation of *simcha*.

Here’s the problem: it’s incorrect. It is **very** possible to have plenty of *simcha* with or without God, and the Torah is full of references to it. Furthermore, the Rav’s idea is not even borne out by a simple reading of the verses he uses for support. In fact, it flies in the face of a central theme of *Sefer Devarim*.

In the context of the 3 festivals, each time the obligation of pilgrimage is mentioned, God is referred to as ‘Adon’ – Master, Magnate, Landowner, *Balabos*. Our obligation to make the pilgrimage is formulated as the obligation of the vassal toward the magnate. Lest we begin to think that the land is actually ours, that we are entitled to it, we are enjoined to visit the true Owner thrice annually, and to bring tribute along.

This theme recurs throughout Devarim, from beginning to end. The Torah is **constantly** warning and legislating against growing too self-secure and forgetting God in our success. It is in the very formulation of the *mitzvot* of Shabbat, the laws governing slavery, the obligation to pray after eating (*bentching*), the gift of the first fruit (*bikkurim*), and, as mentioned, the obligation to make pilgrimages.

It shows up in the ‘warning’ sections at the beginning of Devarim (*‘kochi ve-otzem yadi* being the most well-known and characteristic phrase), in the awful *tochecha* and in Ha’azinu (*va-yishman Yeshurun va-yiv’at*). In the *tochecha*, the element of *simcha* appears specifically. In a well-known but oft-misunderstood section, the Torah warns against forgetting God while being in a state of *simcha*. If we neglect to serve him while we’re happy, we’ll end up serving our enemies from a state of material want. *Simcha* without God is indeed possible, but heinous and worthy of punishment.

MAZAL TOV!

Mazal Tov to Sophie Golding (madricha 5771) on her engagement to Neriya Oren! May they be *zochim* to build a *bayit ne'eman b'yisrael* together!

תורת תפארת (המשך)

This brings us back to *sukkot*, which is our time of joy (*zman simchateinu*). It is the Jewish ingathering festival (*Chag Ha-asif*), which is naturally a time of intense joy. Many, many cultures celebrate the annual gathering in the autumn. This is the time when everything that was left out in the field to dry or ferment is brought in. Right at the beginning of the winter is when there's a lot of food available, so it's time to party. So the Germans have Oktoberfest, the Americans – Thanksgiving, and we Jews, *Sukkot*. The Torah was concerned that the natural *simcha* of this time period would deteriorate into a *simcha* in which God is absent; thus, the Torah mandates that our *simcha* be *lifnei Hashem*.

Tiferet's annual

Tikun Leil Hoshana Raba

will be taking place this
Tuesday night, October 18
At 8 PM
in the Tiferet building.

All of our alumnae, family and friends
are invited to attend.

Tiferet will also be providing transportation from
Yerushalayim, leaving at 7 PM and returning
after the program is over. If you are interested,
please e-mail info@tiferetcenter.com

We want to remind all of our alumnae about our

Alumnae Program

here in Tiferet from

**Thursday, January 12th
- Sunday, January 15th**

This program will include shiurim, programming, *vaads*, and most importantly, a *Shabbaton* for alumnae only! (Our current *Shana Alef* students will be on a school *Shabbaton* away from RBS that *Shabbat*). We are putting tremendous work into this program so that it is an uplifting and enjoyable experience. The cost for the Alumnae Program is only \$40, so we hope that many of you will take advantage of this opportunity and put Tiferet into your schedule for Winter Vacation.

For more information,
contact Mrs. Karen Hochhauser
(karen.hochhauser@gmail.com)
or the Tiferet Administration.

