



Advanced Rosh Hashanah Seminar 2016

First set of blasts

In the first 30 blasts of the *Shofar*, we are connecting to the power of Abraham—Right Column energy of pure sharing. We are not expected to reach the level of ultimate sharing achieved by Abraham where we are thinking of others 24 hours a day. That is not our personal mission in this world. Instead, we are to tap into the power that Abraham brought into this world and, step-by-step, begin to transform our selfish, self-centered desires into more actions of sharing. The cumulative effect of all of us progressively transforming ourselves, moving a step closer to ultimate sharing each day, will have a profound positive effect on the entire world. When enough steps have been taken, a critical mass will be met. We will then achieve what the ancient kabbalists refer to as *Mashiach* or Messiah, meaning world peace, immortality, and infinite fulfillment. These 30 *Shofar* blasts also remove the forces that motivate us to idol worship throughout the year. Idol worship does not refer to a statue that one prays to. It is a code that refers to any external object, such as money, people or any material possession, that controls our behavior and feelings. Real freedom and control is when we learn to generate happiness and contentment from within, regardless of outside forces. That does not mean that we should stop desiring material possessions; the secret is *how* to desire these things from a proactive, controlled position and not in a reactive, out-of-control mode, so that they deliver long-term fulfillment.

Second set of blasts

In the second set of 30 blasts of the *Shofar*, we are connecting to the power of Isaac, which indicates the Left Column force of receiving. Learning how to receive is a fundamental teaching of Kabbalah. Most of us have been conditioned to seek only the temporary material pleasures of life as opposed to the lasting spiritual ones. If we do not learn how to receive both physical and spiritual good fortune in a correct manner, we stand to lose it all. These 30 blasts also help us cleanse adultery from our lives. The concept of adultery is not limited to extramarital affairs. One can also covet another person's business, children, or material possessions. Envy and adultery occur when we fail to fully appreciate all that we have. A lack of appreciation occurs when we receive our lot in life through our reactive system as opposed to our proactive one. We should meditate on cleansing ourselves from the negative residue caused by any act of adultery and ask for the awareness to fully appreciate all that we have in our life.

Third set of blasts

Jacob represents balance. For example, a child misbehaves. The parent can punish the child harshly or do nothing at all. Both are inappropriate. There must be a spiritual balance behind all of our actions. These 30 blasts also help us cleanse away the negative energy we have accumulated through the act of murder. Murder is not limited to the cold-blooded killing of an individual. Character assassination caused by our evil tongue and gossip about another person is also a form of murder. Destroying someone's business and destroying someone's relationship are degrees of murder. If we don't tell someone something that he or she needs to know and then they are severely hurt by our inaction, this is considered murder. If we say something extremely hurtful and abusive to someone, this is also murder. Jacob gives us the strength and wisdom to use our power of speech in a balanced and spiritual manner so that the words we voice are deeds of sharing instead of weapons of destruction. This should be our intent and meditation during this set of *Shofar* blasts.

Fourth set of blasts

These final ten *Shofar* blowings signify the violation of *Lashon Hara* (Evil Speech) against another person. The cause of evil speech and gossip is Hatred for No Reason—one of the most common reactive traits. It can express itself as gossip when we make derogatory statements about someone we don't really know. For example, we speak badly of a business competitor or make slanderous statements that are based upon the hearsay of other people's gossip. The Talmud teaches us that both ancient Holy Temples were destroyed by the Babylonians and the Romans because of the Hatred for No Reason. We must learn to love, respect, and be tolerant toward all people—especially when we find it difficult—if we are to change our world. The enemy is never other people, no matter how opposed we are to their viewpoints, opinions, and lifestyles. The enemy is the Satan, who ignites our reactive behavior toward others. When we shut down our reactive behavior, we will be amazed at how all those irritating people in our lives suddenly seem to change in positive ways. It is far too easy to find fault in others. We must learn to look for that common spark of Light that unites all people. Before these *Shofar* blasts, we should meditate to love just one other person, for absolutely no reason whatsoever.

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