

Shevi'i and Achron Shel Pesach

The Lubavitcher Rebbe is quoted as saying that on the 7th night of Pesach, the gates of heaven are open for all to ask requests from Hashem, "and there are no guards at the gates of Heaven for all to request." (It is likened to Neilah Prayer, where the gates of Heaven are still open for beseeching forgiveness from Hashem just as the day comes to a close.

The 7th day of Pesach marks the moment when the Jews plunged into the Sea of Reeds and split, which is likened to one of the greatest moments in faith; quite literally, it was a leap of faith. Two things are compared to "the splitting of the sea" that is successful business ventures and (successful) matchmaking. These two, perhaps, compared to all other forms of effort, are as significant when successful as the splitting of the sea because there is always a reason for something not to work. Much like water is not supposed to split. Yet, you can achieve mighty and great things when you empower yourself with faith and go beyond what logic dictates. Specifically, when you are led by faith, Hashem will do amazing things for you, and Hashem ultimately controls and is the King of Kings. It is no wonder; then the Rebbe stated that on the 7th day of Pesach (specifically at night), the gates of Heaven are open for all that request blessings. Because we are a people of faith, which was renewed beginning at the seder night (as I wrote about in my Pesach D'var Torah), we arrive at the moment of the leap of faith fully committed to Hashem. Pesach, unlike Yom Kippur, we aren't asking for forgiveness per se; instead, we can ask about anything we

need, knowing full well with our renewed faith that it is from Hashem that we are provided with anything and everything.

The 7th day commemorates the most significant leap of faith in history, symbolizing a leap of faith for all of history (re: matchmaking and business ventures). Therefore, with a renewed commitment to Hashem, let us beseech all we require and want from Hashem, and even through all that, make sure we beg that Mashiach comes amidst all that we are asking for. Our faith is based not on commemorating the downfall of others; rather, it is focused on our salvation (which is how halachikally we sing the Az Yashir).

In Chutz La'Aretz, we have the 8th day, Achron Shel Pesach, on which Chassidim, beginning with the Baal Shem Tov, traditionally commemorate it with a Mashiach's Seuda. This seuda is a recognition that even though the 7 days prior, we reflected on the exodus of history, we are bound to a redemption of our own, the one to be ushered in quickly and speedily in our days, the times of Mashiach. So excited and hopeful are we for this time that we mark a ceremony toward the end of the holiday, already recognizing the era that is Mashiach.

May the time of Golus be shortened and hearken the days of Mashiach speedily in our times.

Chag Sameach Gut Yom Tov!