



HAFTORAH INSIGHTS

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Drop by Drop

What does real change require? During the Aseret Yemei Teshuvah, we often imagine teshuvah as something dramatic—a sweeping resolution, a promise that this year everything will be different.

Yet in the haftorah of Shabbos Shuvah, Hoshea offers a quieter image: אֶהְיֶה כְּטֵל — “I will be like dew to Israel; he will blossom like the lily and strike his roots like Lebanon.” Rain announces its arrival. Dew forms almost

imperceptibly, drop by drop, yet it provides the moisture that allows life to grow.

The Radak explains that Hoshea compares Hashem’s blessing to dew because dew is constant: ואמר טל לפי שאינו נפסק, כן טוב הקל — “He said ‘dew’ because it does not cease; so, too, Hashem’s goodness will not cease from them.” Even when we feel spiritually dry or distant, Hashem’s goodness remains. His invitation to return is always open.

But dew alone is not enough. Hoshea continues: וְיָרַךְ שְׁרָשָׁיו כְּלִבְנוֹן — “He will strike his roots like Lebanon.” Rav Samson Raphael Hirsch develops this idea in his commentary on the words in Ha’azinu, תִּגְלוּ כְּטֵל אֶמְרָתִי — “May My words flow like dew.” He explains that just as dew causes everything rooted in the earth to grow and blossom, so Hashem’s words act upon our hearts. Dew falls everywhere, but it nourishes that which is rooted.

Perhaps this is the challenge of Shabbos Shuvah. Hashem provides the dew—the constant nourishment, love, and possibility of renewal. Our responsibility is to establish roots. A root is more than a passing inspiration. It is one commitment anchored deeply enough to remain after the emotion of the moment has faded: one tefillah approached with greater attention, one relationship treated with more care, one regular time for Torah learning, or one pattern of speech we resolve to change.

We sometimes dismiss a commitment because it seems too small. We want our teshuvah to feel like a downpour. But one

In Memory of:

**Tsvi Hersh ben
Menachem Mendel z”l
(Harold Klaff)**

on his 35th yearzeit, 4 Tishrei

and

**Chana bat Tsvi Hersh a”h
(Lolly Dan)**

on her 19th yearzeit - 5 Tishrei

and

**Avraham Yisroel ben
Shlomo Zalman z”l
(Avrome Dan)**

on his 36th yearzeit, 1st day of Succot

**May their wonderful
Neshamot have Aliyot**

**In loving memory,
Debbie & Herby Dan**

small commitment that takes root can transform us more deeply than a sweeping resolution that cannot be sustained.

Perhaps the question of Shabbos Shuvah is not only, *How much am I prepared to change?* It is also, *Where am I prepared to put down roots?* Hashem provides the dew. Our task is to become rooted enough to receive it. And then, quietly and steadily, growth can begin. ■



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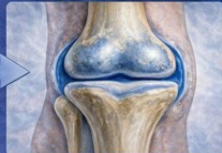
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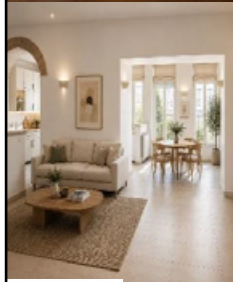
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