



### Celebrating Tenacity

How do you maintain spiritual focus in a material world teeming with every imaginable distraction?

Is there a way to perpetuate a moment of inspiration, not allowing it to dissipate under the weight of life's burdens? How do we keep our values aligned when we have bills to pay, promises to keep, a workload that never seems to go away?

What should we do when doubts creep in, when uncertainty and other debilitating forces weaken our resolve? How do we overcome adversity and all those detractors who cynically dismiss our noble and virtuous efforts?

Why do some people seem to have the strength and courage to prevail over challenges, and others do not? Where does their certainty and power come from? And can we all access it?

The answer to these and other similar questions is found in what may seem to some, a surprising place: a Chasidic discourse penned by the Previous Lubavitcher Rebbe over 60 years ago, and then dissected and elucidated annually by the Rebbe on the anniversary of the Previous Rebbe's passing, 10 Shevat.

Its concluding theme? How to maintain unwavering spiritual fortitude, and determination and commitment, in face of the challenges that we face living in self-indulgent material universe.

It discusses the harsh challenges our pure and innocent souls face in a selfish and corrupt world. The soul, it explains, originates in a very pristine and sublime state - seamlessly bound to its Divine source. In that state no duality exists; the soul's identity and agenda is one with the Divine plan. But then this pure soul descends into the physical body and material plane, which is dominated by different and conflicting self-interests.

Your integrated soul is an alien in this fragmented world. Yet, this drastic descent is precisely the purpose of all existence: So that the soul can repair the schism, overcoming the temptations and seductions of the physical body and refining the material universe.

This process demands enormous effort and exertion. The soul must fight a grueling battle to conquer the relentless pull of materialism.

Then, just as we become spiritually inspired, the "animal soul" distracts us with baseless doubts and fears. The only way to triumph in this battle is to muster the deepest resources of the soul - the enormous, unwavering power of Netzach (literally "victory") - which emerges only in the face of adversity. The energy of Netzach comes from a deep-rooted belief in who you are and what you need to accomplish.

We access this power precisely when we are under attack. When we fight to live virtuous lives, standing up firmly for justice and morality, and combating selfishness, we evoke the deepest Divine, spiritual resources. The challenges of life, thus, become catalysts that ignite our deepest strengths.

Complacency is the root of weak resolve. By contrast, when we fear betraying our own highest aspirations, this danger stimulates new energies and will-power, drawing out the unshakeable core of the soul.

There is no greater gift than the gift of determination: The absolute certainty that you are precious and indispensable; that you are on a mission championing a cause; that the place and time in which you find yourself is exactly where you belong; and that you have the power to make your unique mark on the universe.

So the secret to access inner strength and resolve is by looking at our own doubts and procrastination as an "enemy."

Define the enemy and then gather all your inner strengths to go into battle. When the challenge seems particularly formidable, instead of retreating, obstinately commit to fulfill your mission.

When you make that netzach commitment, your inner soul, fed by the indomitable Divine, will carry you.

*(by Rabbi Simon Jacobson from <http://www.lchaimweekly.org/>)*

## Glorified Money

"I am always so impressed how nicely you do mitzvos. Your Bar Mitzva was just right, and your weddings were perfect. When that Rosh Yeshiva came from Israel you really made him feel at home. But I never understood why when it came to paying your children's tuition, you always try your best to avoid it!!"

When the Torah says "This is my G-d, and I will glorify Him" (Shemos 15:2). The Gomorrah (Shabbos 133b) says it refers to glorifying mitzvos as we do them, since this glorifies G-d. People have special cups for ritually washing their hands, beautiful Esrog boxes, Kiddush cups etc. Sometimes we forget that paying tuition, giving charity, or paying any money that we owe is a mitzva. When we have an opportunity to do a mitzva, make sure we glorify G-d.

There is a silversmith in Yerushalayim who makes everyone who pays him for his work, say "I am hereby fulfilling the mitzva of paying for work done for me."

*(by Rabbi Chaim Flom from Project Genesis at [www.torah.org](http://www.torah.org))*

Dedication of plaques on the Shul board which is prominently located in the hall at the entrance to the Shul is an appropriate means of Tzedakah and supports the Shul as well. Below is the list of items available. Please contact Howard Kaplon at [hkaplon@towson.edu](mailto:hkaplon@towson.edu) for more information.

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|--------------------------------|---------------------------|
| 1. Top (large) Plaques \$5,400 | 2. Medium Plaques \$3,600 |
| 3. Small Plaques \$1,000       | 4. Simcha Leaf \$250      |

Yahrzeit Plaques on the Shul's Memorial board are available. Each yahrzeit plaque is \$360.

**Mr. Adam and Mrs. Hadassah Block** are sponsoring Kiddush this Shabbat in memory of Hadassah's mother, **Yerusha bas Avraham Chincholker**, whose yahrzeit is the 18<sup>th</sup> of Shevat.



Kol Hanaarim— Father and Son Learning – Friday evening during the winter at 7:15 p.m. in The Shul. Cholent and other refreshments are served. Each session is 'topped off' at the end with a fascinating story. For any questions, please see Rabbi Itzkowitz.

### SHUL DIRECTORY

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### DAVENING AND SHIURIM SCHEDULE

#### Friday, 1/26 — 16 Shevat

Shacharit — 7:00 a.m.  
Candles — 5:01 p.m.  
Minchah / Ma'ariv — 5:00 p.m.

#### Shabbat, 1/27 — 17 Shevat

Shacharit — 9:00 a.m.  
Sof Z'man Kriat Shema — 9:46 a.m.  
Minchah — 4:50 p.m.  
Shiur — after Minchah  
Ma'ariv — 6:03 p.m.

#### Sunday, 1/28 — 18 Shevat

Shacharit — 8:00 a.m.  
Minchah / Ma'ariv — 5:10 p.m.

#### Monday, 1/29 — 19 Shevat

Shacharit — 6:50 a.m.  
Minchah / Ma'ariv — 5:10 p.m.

#### Tuesday, 1/30 — 20 Shevat

Shacharit — 7:00 a.m.  
Minchah / Ma'ariv — 5:10 p.m.

#### Wednesday, 1/31 — 21 Shevat

Shacharit — 7:00 a.m.  
Minchah / Ma'ariv — 5:10 p.m.

#### Thursday, 2/1 — 22 Shevat

Shacharit — 6:50 a.m.  
Minchah / Ma'ariv — 5:10 p.m.

#### Friday, 2/2 — 23 Shevat

Shacharit — 7:00 a.m.  
Candles — 5:09 p.m.  
Minchah / Ma'ariv — 5:10 p.m.