

May, 2020

RESET!

After living for two months in quasi-reality, we're coming up for air to find that the world has changed. Our communities have changed. We've mourned the passing of spiritual leaders and we've lost very special *baalei batim*. Our heart aches for the pain of the bereft families and the vacuum that the departed have left behind. Our thoughts and *tefillos* are with the many *cholim* who still need a *refuah*.

The business world has changed. The way we buy things has changed. The way we spend our day and communicate — has all changed. At least for the time being, the school system has changed, as has the way we daven and learn. So much of what we always perceived as "the way it is" has undergone a huge transformation. In many respects, there is **the world before Corona** and **the world after Corona**.

A wise man once taught me: "There is no change without pain." It isn't easy getting used to new things. So how do we deal with the pangs of this accelerated adjustment?

The answer is: **RESET!**

If we're tightly connected to the past — and it's only natural — we'll keep thinking about how it ought to be, and the contrast will wrench at us every time. But if we push the **RESET** button and stop looking back, the changes will be easier to handle. And once we realize that this period is not a glitch that will soon snap back to "the way it was," we'll be able to see it for what it really is: a life-changing experience, setting the stage for the final, lasting change of the coming of Moshiach.

Let's take a look at a specific example: the way we celebrate simchas. After the Corona-imposed micro-simchas, an important initiative came up in various communities to continue making simchas differently than in the past. Anything in this direction is very commendable, especially if we are to ensure that we don't bounce back to our old norms. A **RESET** mindset brings us yet a step further and allows for substantial change. We should give that real change a chance to take place.

The way to make it work is to take the cue from a financial tool called "zero-based budgeting." In zero-based budgeting, instead of comparing the new budget to last year's and taking off 10-20%, we drop all preconceived ideas and take a fresh, new look at what we **really** need, based on the current reality. That's the key to maintaining the positive changes in our reality.

Who said we have to look at the simchas of the last 30, 40, 50 years? We can't build on what was in the post-WWII era. Now, *baruch Hashem*, we have bigger families. Let's take a new look: How do we make a simcha with real *tochen* in today's world?

In this post-corona period, let's **RESET**. Let's start afresh and try cutting off from past conventions, opening the door to much more substantial and lasting change. If we realize that we're in a new situation and don't try to compare every change to what once was, it will be easier for us to **thrive**, rather than just **survive**. Let's grasp the opportunity to move forward and perpetuate positive change, paving the way for the imminent, ultimate change of Yemos Hamoshiach!

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