



SIMCHAT SHMUEL

BY RABBI SAM SHOR

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Our Sedra this week opens with the familiar *pasuk*:

Re'ay Anochi notein lachem hayom, bracha' uklala - See, I set before you today, a blessing "...and a curse

Rabbi Kalonymous Kalmish Shapira hy'd, zy'a, The *Piaszecna Rebbe*, offered a novel interpretation of our verse.

Re'ay Anochi notein lachem hayom, bracha uklala - See I, give **Myself** to you **Hayom- Today and everyday...**which can be a **blessing or chas v'shalom a curse**.

The greatest blessing that a Jew can experience, explains the Rebbe, is the comfort in realizing that *Hashem* is there with us **HaYom- Today and everyday-** even when we are experiencing trauma or pain, and the worst curse that one could ever experience is to imagine even for one day that *Hashem* is absent from our lives, that *Hashem* is not there with us always in joy and triumph as well as in sadness and difficulties.

Re'ay Anochi notein lachem hayom, Hashem, Anochi, gives himself to us **HaYom- today and everyday.**

Rabbi Yisrael Grossman zt'l notes that we must understand this verse as presenting us with the potential inherent within every single day.

Re'ay Anochi notein lachem hayom-Hashem has given us **Hayom- Today- this day-** to either bring blessing into the world through our actions, or *chas v'shalom* to

bring further harm and damage into this world through inappropriate or destructive choices and behavior.

The ***Kedushat Levi, Reb Levi Yitzchak of Berditchev zy'a***, offers a similar interpretation of our verse, developing this important idea even further. *Hashem* gives us **HaYom- each day-** *Hashem* gives us each day as an opportunity through our actions, to be a source of blessing in this world, or through our failings, *chas v'shalom*, to bring consequences into this world. However the Rebbe explains that the greatest *chesed* is that this opportunity is renewed each and every day. Yesterday I may have come up short, but **HaYom- Today**, I get another opportunity to indeed bring blessing into this world through my deeds and actions.

Yehi Ratzon, may we all merit to heed these two powerful teachings, and to experience these blessings today and everyday....Shabbat Shalom ■

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