



KI HEIM  
CHAYEINU  
כי הם חיינו



Discover the Joy  
of Shabbos

## Shabbos Renewal

By Rav Pinches Friedman shlita (Shiur E14)

*Observance of Shabbos Makes a New World – and can be the answer to your challenge.*

### Partner in Creation

The Gemara<sup>1</sup> teaches:

כל המתפלל בערב שבת ואומר ויכלו - מעלה עליו הכתוב  
כאילו נעשה שותף להקדוש ברוך הוא במעשה בראשית

*Whomever Davens on Friday  
night and says ויכלו is a partner  
with הקב"ה in Creation.*

The 'אור החיים הק' wonders<sup>2</sup> how a person can become a partner in a project after it was completed before the person was even born?

The 'אור החיים הק' answers that הקב"ה created a world which was built to last for exactly six days – כי ששת ימים עשה ה' את – the Posuk does not say that it took six days to make the world (בששת ימים), rather it says that it is a six-day world (ששת ימים), no more. The world is created anew when Shabbos is observed. The energy of Shabbos observance is what gives the world its sustenance for the coming six days. Every Shabbos is creative. The one who observes Shabbos is not just figuratively a partner in Creation; he is literally a partner.

Indeed, the 'אור החיים הק' goes on to list how at all times in history there was someone who was observing Shabbos. Those people kept the world going (אדם, שם, מתושלח, נח, שם, אברהם אבינו, וזרעו במצרים שמרו שבת, וכו').

Had there not been a person observing Shabbos, the world would have ceased to exist.

One who declares that הקב"ה is the Creator of Heaven and Earth is thereby fulfilling the purpose of Creation. We are meant to acknowledge that הקב"ה is the Creator Who set Shabbos as the power source for that Creation.

### *The merit of Shabbos observance*

Does keeping the world going seem like a large or a small accomplishment? It can hardly be overstated how large an accomplishment that is. It is the Will of הקב"ה that there be a world. The Shabbos observer is causing that Will to be fulfilled. Thus, the person is granted partner status. And the partnership goes two ways: you create the world and Creation bends for you.

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<sup>1</sup> שבת דף קיט :

<sup>2</sup> אור החיים בראשית ב:ג



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## Discover the Joy of Shabbos

### *Bending for you*

We are taught:<sup>3</sup>

וקראת לשבת עונג, אמר רב יהודה אמר רב כל המענג את השבת נותנים לו משאלות לבו שנאמר והתענג על ה' ויתן לך משאלות לבך.

*Whomever delights over Shabbos is granted his hearts desires.*

It is sometimes difficult to delight over Shabbos. Life's challenges can dampen one's mood. But that is precisely the point. One who transcends one's challenges to focus on delighting over Shabbos is not only upgrading his spiritual life; he is partnering with Hashem in Creation.

The partners in Creation are entitled to return on their investment. As difficult as it may be to set aside one's challenges in favor of שבת, עונג, that difficulty leads to the Creation taking on the task of being a servant to the person. The one who rejoices with Shabbos, his heart's desires become the will of the Creation that he has partnered in. The world adapts to the needs of the one who gives it its fuel and renewal.

*A hint in the לכה דודי*

**Takeaway: I will try to upgrade the importance of עונג שבת in my understanding.**

The great Kabbalist, Rav Shlomo HaLevi Alkabetz, hints at this connection in the second stanza of לכה דודי. There we find

לקראת שבת לכו ונלכה  
כי היא מקור הברכה  
מראש מקדם נסובה  
סוף מעשה במחשבה תחלה

The expression מראש מקדם נסובה (which borrows from משלי ח: כג) can be translated as 'from the beginning, from before time, it was chosen/ anointed.' The word קד"מ is 144, the number of hours in the six-day week. Shabbos is the source of ברכה for every hour of the six-day week to come. Indeed, whatever will come in the ensuing six days depends on how we spend שבת קודש.

והתענג עליה ויתן לך משאלת לבך: (תהלים לז: ד)

When we immerse ourselves in Hashem's עונג, Hashem will fulfil our heart's desires. That עונג is palpably felt when we learn Torah (especially on Shabbos) and enjoy the sublime pleasure of Shabbos.

**Good Shabbos!**

<sup>3</sup> ילקוט שמעוני ישעיהו רמז תצו