



## 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.

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

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, שת, 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.

<sup>1</sup> שבת דף קיט :

<sup>2</sup> אור החיים בראשית ב:ג



# KI HEIM CHAYEINU

כי הם חיינו



## 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.

*Whoever 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 דודי 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 דודי לכה. 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