

Think again - Spring is in the air

Spring is in the air and with it a sense of optimism brightness and joy. Our solitary peach tree in our front driveway which sends its roots down through the concrete is now beginning to flower with pink blossoms. It never ceases to amaze me how a seemingly dead tree comes alive each year; but there it is, in full bloom and glory.

The Lubavitcher Rebbe used to say, that when the Jewish calendar month of Elul comes around each year, he could feel something special in the air. The shofar was sounded each morning as a preparation to the High Holidays, and his neshama would seize a quick jump of liveliness with a spring in its spirit. In the Northern hemisphere where the Rebbe lived, it was not spring, it was autumn. The Rebbe would say as the leaves fell to the ground it was as if the leaves were trembling and shaking in awe with the realisation that the High Holidays were approaching. Whether in the northern or southern Hemisphere when September comes around there is a sense of change in the air. Especially after 9/11 spring and September take on a heightened sense of awareness. We all take a moment to reflect at the vulnerability of our existence; we take a moment to reflect that it is the simple and small things in life that are significant. Not unlike the simple transformation of a peach tree in Brook Street Coogee.

The word for scent or aroma in Hebrew is "R'ach" - ריח which is related to the Hebrew word for spirit - רוח. The inference of the Hebrew words is that to draw down the ריח in the air, one is able to create a רוח a powerful and vibrant spirit.

There are others who argue that the spring and spirit in the air is due to the Semi finals football starting this weekend as it does each year in September. The Rugby world cup is starting in New Zealand and the AFL stars defiantly have a spring in their footsteps as they all jump for that illusive premiership. I understand all of this but there is nothing like the spirit in the air on Friday night as we share a lechaim with each other in shule and whilst you are on your way to shule have a look at our blossoming peach tree.

As always see you in shule

Good Shabbos

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