

אַתֶּם נֹצְבִים הַיּוֹם, כְּלָכֶם, לְפָנַי ה' אֶ-לֵהֵיכֶם: רֵאשֵׁיכֶם
שְׁבֻטֵיכֶם, זְקֵנֵיכֶם, וְשֹׁטְרֵיכֶם, כָּל אִישׁ יִשְׂרָאֵל. טַפְּכֶם,
נְשֵׁיכֶם וְגֵרְךָ, אֲשֶׁר בְּקֶרֶב מַחֲנֶיךָ, מִחֹטֵב עֵצֶיךָ עַד שֹׂאֵב
מִיַּמֶּיךָ. (דברים כט, ט-י)

“You (plural) are standing today, all of you (plural), before HaShem, your God: the heads of your tribes, your elders, and your officers, all the men of Israel; your small children, your women, and your convert who is in the midst of your camp, from the hewer of your wood to the drawer of your water.” Deuteronomy 29:9-10.

The Shabbat before Rosh HaShana we always read Parshat Nitzavim. As explained in the holy Zohar, the word *HaYom* – today – refers to Rosh HaShana itself. On Rosh HaShana we stand before God, but the question is on what level? Who is standing before God on Rosh HaShana? On Rosh HaShana we are not being counted on the level of details, but rather on the level of **all**. All of us, as a truly united community of individuals. Whatever state of mind we are in, in a state of small mindedness lower consciousness, or in a state of expanded higher consciousness; in our creative states and in our simple labor states. As leaders and as followers, all of us are to stand before God, in true unity, inwardly and nationally, always, but most particularly on Rosh HaShana.

Every person is the combination of various details but then there is the **all** of a person. So, the verse is not only coming to teach us that the one - “all” - nation of Israel is coming to stand together as one nation before God on Rosh HaShana, notwithstanding that the one nation is composed of many different kinds of individuals (details).

Also the verse is coming to teach us, that while the individual is composed of many different “details”, as symbolized by the nine different types of people in the verse, on Rosh HaShana I am being asked to be fully present as a whole person before God, with all the various components of my mind and heart, my intellect and my emotions, my ego and the voice within me that is beyond ego.

Life is combination of two things: there is one area of life that directs me to behave like everybody else, meaning that there are certain rules which everyone must abide by to ensure the integrity and order of a community, culture and nation. Then there is another area of life, which just **I, the complete total I**, am compelled to heed, and no one else can do it. There is one thing, which, as a complete whole person makes me special and unique. Everybody has something special to do and to be, which is deep, and this cannot necessarily be written down in words. Actually, it cannot be confined within the limitations of the spoken word. Rather it's each person's inner sense of “wholeness.”

Anything which has to do with me which everyone else is doing is on the level of details. For example, as a Jew: keeping Shabbat, observing the laws of *kashrut*, learning Torah, and as human being: being a good person, becoming well mannered, not speaking negatively about others, being positive and developing a calm and compassionate way of living. Of course, this is important, it's essential, --- it's the "many faces of me." It's all the details that I share in one way or another with all other people. Then there is that one thing which is just I --- the **all** of me. There is one thing which touches the **all** of me, which is the deepest depths of my existence.

The Piaseczner Rebbe, Rabbi Kalonymus Kalmish Shapira, addresses this in his spiritual journal, *Tzav v'Ziruz*, translated by Yehoshua Starrett in the English version, *To Heal The Soul*. Here he shares with the reader his understanding of the "one thing which touches the **all** of me, which is the deepest depths of my existence."

Entry 24: Envisioning Your Ideal Spiritual Self – Your Soul

If you have tried to rouse your soul with all your means but it has not been aroused to lead the conscious life that it should, and to yearn for the spiritual life that behooves it, this is what you should do: Envision yourself as already the ideal spiritual person you really are. Just imagine the greatness of your soul...see how your soul shines in God's garden, in Eden, as He comes to enjoy your company with His holy entourage. Meditate deeply on these pictures. Hold these images in your mind's eye. Inevitably you will be roused to a higher awareness. From this expanded consciousness you do not want to defile your soul. Savor the bliss of embrace by the great Creator as you yearn to actualize this from the depths of your soul.