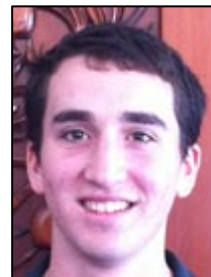


STUDENT'S PERSPECTIVE

by Avi Altschuler



Aston Martin. Basketball. MacBook Pro. George Gershwin. Yeshivat Orayta. I ask you, my dear reader; what do all these things have in common? Aside from proving that I have an incredibly random thought process, these nouns all possess the same key element. And that element, my friend, is Awesome. Sheer, raw, unadulterated, and unfiltered Awesome! I mean, what a week! Just thinking about it sends a fresh set of yummy shivers down my spine.

On the first fateful day we went on a *Tiyul* to an amazing place called *Gilboa*, where we hiked through a stunning valley full of rocks, boulders, and gorgeous greenery. If you managed to see the pictures Rav Binny took, I was the one looking like an idiot up in the tree, just FYI. After that we took a stop in *Nachal HaKibutzim* for a hike through chest deep water. It was a few miles of trudging through Vietnam type scenery, and sewage reminiscent water slides. That's right, you heard me. Some of the guys even decided to head up the water slides, challenging both the current and the opposing traffic, which resulted in some pretty amusing situations. Needless to say, we all had a superb time.

I am so unbelievably fortunate to have come to this Yeshiva. My *Rosh Yeshiva*, Rav Binny, is nothing less than a fountain of spiritual and *halachic* wisdom. He takes time out of his own busy schedule on Thursday and Friday nights to sit down with willing boys, and answer any question on our minds. This is something that is easily taken for granted, but should be valued and treasured. The Philosophy and Mysticism course with Rabbi Aaron is quite literally (or figuratively, I forget which is which) dripping with astonishing insights into setting and achieving our individual personal goals. I am also taking an interesting Biblical Drama course with Rav Moish Kornblum, which I am enjoying immensely. I also enjoy the Orayta Fellowship Program, which lets us learn with young men who are studying in the Rabbinat. My own "fellow," is currently working on his PhD Doctorate in Chasidic studies at Harvard, so I find myself learning things about the teachings of *Chasidut* that are both enthralling and helpful on a daily basis. Last, but certainly not least, is my *Gemara* class with Rav David Silverstein. He takes a conceptual

approach to Talmud study that is helping me enjoy it and sink my teeth into it far more than I was ever able to in the past.

If this week is at all a sign for the upcoming year, then I can be sure in saying that I am in for a truly amazing Israel experience.
