



## A STUDENT'S PERSPECTIVE

by Aryeh Cohen



When I was asked to write this week's article for the newsletter, I struggled with what I would write about. I wanted to relate both to the people reading and allow readers to have some insight into what Yeshivat Orayta is really about. I decided to use my notes from Rabbi Aaron's class as a guide and I found a very interesting section about how G-d loves us.

Hashem equipped us with specific talents that help us with our lives. Rabbi Aaron said, "A painter can't claim complete credit for his work because he hasn't really done it all. G-d assisted him in making his painting. When a painter is working he often finds that he is in a transient state of mind; that can be interpreted as G-d assisting him." When I thought about this further it bothered me. I pursued Rabbi Aaron after class and asked him, "How can't we claim credit for our talents if G-d gave them to us?" He responded by saying, "There is no problem with claiming a little credit, which is why it's fine to sign your name on paintings. However, it is unhealthy when a painter becomes completely self absorbed and thinks that he deserves the credit. He must take some time to appreciate what G-d has equipped him with. That is why we write  $\tau''\text{ob}$  on the top corner of the pages we write on; to remind us that we are taking the notes but G-d is assisting us in doing so."

I found this conversation very meaningful and decided to attempt to apply it to every day life. This was easier said than done. I have taken the small step of using the  $\tau''\text{ob}$  as often as possible because it is a useful tool which reminds us that everything we do can be accredited to G-d. We must always attempt to reflect upon how much G-d loves us.

Rabbi Aaron reminded me why I picked Orayta. I was looking for a laid back place, with stimulating classes, which had a great social environment, for a long time, but I had a lot of difficulty finding it. Then my high school principal introduced me to Rav Binny. We immediately clicked and I realized Orayta was the perfect Yeshiva for me. Students come to Israel with a list of goals which they wish to accomplish. Orayta has helped me fulfill some of my goals so far, but more importantly has allowed me to make a few new goals. This Yeshiva truly is unique in that it helps guide everyone that comes here. We have such a diverse group of people in our Yeshiva and I am amazed to see that overall everyone is happy and their goals, whatever they are, are being fulfilled. I doubt I would be nearly as happy in any other Yeshiva but Orayta.

שבת שלום!

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*Aryeh graduated from TABC (Torah Academy of Bergen County) in New Jersey. He was on the basketball and softball teams. Currently he is the Captain of the Orayta Football Team. Aryeh is planning on attending Rutgers University next year.*