



## A STUDENT'S PERSPECTIVE

by Ari Karp

*"People only care about the result, they don't realize that the process is the most important part"*

– Rav Yair Eisenstock, Ram, Yeshivat Orayta



I still remember this past summer how I packed and said my good byes to my friends and family. I remember thinking about the coming year that I had committed to spending in Israel, in the Old City at Yeshivat Orayta. I have to admit, I was very tempted to tell my parents that I was no longer going, and that instead I was going to work or just go straight to college. However, I thought about what my friends and NCSY advisors had said about the post high school year in Israel, and how they all spoke of this as the best time in their lives, the time where they made their lifelong friendships. So I decided that although I was nervous and was not particularly excited about the thought of going to Yeshiva, I would go and give it my best.

As I walked through the ticket counter to the plane, I thought about my expectations for the year. I had committed to this year to figure out who I am; the path I want to take in life; what Judaism entails and how I wanted it to affect my life. I remember getting off the plane and going to the *Bet Midrash* to meet the other students and the faculty. We started with an ice breaker and went around the room; each person standing up and introducing themselves, where they are from, what high school they went to, and if they could be a tool or house hold appliance - what would they be. It all seemed great, but I never imagined that in the months that followed our group of fifty or so students would grow so close and become such great friends.

Whether it is in morning *shiur* with R' Yair, *Rambam* shiur with R' Binny, Philosophy & Mysticism shiur with R' Aaron, Fellows, Night Seder, or even just the *chavrutot* that I have with Rabbis and fellow students, in the past half a year I have grown out of that shell of a person I was when I first came to Orayta. I have learnt so much about myself, as well as what being a Jew means, and my love of being a Jew has been brought to full blossom. I have realized just how vast the world of Torah really is, and how what I thought to be the sum of Judaism was not even scratching at the surface.

I learn about *Tefilah* with Rav Yair, and in our *chavrutah* we spoke about the words אלוקינו ואלוקי אבותינו (Our G-d and the G-d of our forefathers). Why does it go out of nature's order and say the present, אלוקינו (Our G-d) before the past, אלוקי אבותינו (G-d of our forefathers)? First we talk about our G-d on a personal level, what is closest to us, and the things we have most control over, the internal. We deal with the internal first since what is internal is the most important. Before you can go out and face the world you have to first find and figure out your internal self and then, only once you have completely organized and dealt with the internal, can you go and turn to the external, to others.

My past has led me down some entangled and difficult paths. Yet despite that, who and where I am NOW, TODAY, is someone, someplace, which I could only have dreamed of reaching. But now because of my friends, rabbis, and role models, I have been able to deal with my "internal" and I have reached it and feel as I have never felt before. I have reached a new level of understanding and appreciation; I have discovered a world where I can see for myself the clear fields and paths that lay before me, and I can look back on the thick forest that I came from.

As the quote states above; "the most important part is the process". As I look back on the way I got to where and who I am today, I realize just how true that is. I have learnt that although the result seems to be the most important thing in life, the process by which you reach that result is actually so much more important, since you can never have the result without going through the process.