



A STUDENT'S PERSPECTIVE

by Rafi Lowenstein

When one door closes another door always opens. This euphemism is not only literal at Orayta, it is a philosophical principle that represents the Yeshiva.

After *Sukkot* the *Rabbeim* asked the students to enter the Yeshiva through the back door. Although in reality this request was no big deal, for many of us it took a few days to recondition our sleepy selves to use the back door as we all stroll into *davening* at eight in the morning. But after a few weeks, we don't even think twice about it; the back door has become the front door. It is surprising how quickly one, when forced to, can readjust to new surroundings and occurrences.



This is an infinitesimal change in our day; but in addition to the knowledge and life lessons that our rabbis' have been implementing in us, I have come to see a much larger picture that makes sense. Larger more significant changes take effort. Effort not only in reapplying ourselves or in hours spent, but effort in understanding who we are and what it is that we truly want.

Often times one focuses on the closing door, the one that he can no longer access. But the sooner that a person realizes that a new opportunity has presented itself, the better off and more open minded a person can become. I know that this is the essence of Orayta. Life constantly presents changes and challenges, but it is the art of understanding how to harness the present and apply our choices that allows us to become who we want to become.