



Divrei Beracha

In my first year teaching at YU, I noticed that every Wednesday evening, during the last half hour of second seder, Rav Schachter gave a short shiur to some of the *talmidim* who are in a six year *semikha* track. The focus of the shiur is the *yesodos* from Rav Soloveitchik's *yahrtzeit* shiurim, which Rav Schachter says over from his own memory (and not from the write up). When I discovered this shiur, I started to sneak in to listen. In one such shiur, Rav Schachter quoted that Rav Soloveitchik explained that there is a certain great joy in teaching Torah to other people. When the halacha expects somebody to experience a very high level of *simcha*, he becomes a *chiyuv* for an *aliyah* to the Torah, a position of teaching Torah to others. Rav Soloveitchik explains that this is the reason that *Shulchan Aruch* (YD 384:2) holds that an *avel* cannot get an *aliyah* even though he

may stay in the room for *kerias haTorah* (YD 393:3). Apparently, even in those circumstances when we are willing to allow an *avel* to learn Torah, such as learning portions that are related to mourning or part of the daily routine (such as *kerias haTorah*), we do not allow the *avel* to teach others. All Torah brings *simcha*, but teaching others brings an entirely different level of *simcha*.

Rav Soloveitchik explained that this is why there is a *minhag* for a *chasan* or *ba'al bris* to get an *aliyah*. The greatest way to express *simcha* is to teach Torah to others. Our *musmakhim* have spent many years toiling in the great *shira* of *limud haTorah* in yeshiva, and are now primed to elevate the joy inherent in the song of Torah by going out to communities, shuls, and batei medrash, to share torah with others and fulfill the holy task of emulating the ways of



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Hashem by teaching Torah to others. We wish all of our precious *musmakhim*, who represent the very best of our yeshiva, abundant *hatzlacha* in this most holy and joyous endeavor.