

INNER FLAME OF

Yom Kippur



ON YOM KIPPUR WE GET THE SPECIAL LIGHT OF BINAH — which helps us see the *pnimius* of everything. What is this *pnimius*? Hashem's light that is in all of creation. This light shines everywhere, particularly in the most distant places, the most disconnected places.

- Every person gets to see their truth on this day.
- We separate ourselves from any externalities that will get in the way of this light. It is a day of *pnimius* only.
- This light makes us desire a deep closeness to Hashem and to live a spiritually fulfilling life.
- We recognize that anything good in this life is connected and sourced in Hashem's light.
- We also recognize that despite all our opposing desires, what we really want is just Hashem's light.
- This is the essence of this day — to reveal what we really, really want.
- This desire for Hashem makes us do *teshuvah* and brings us forgiveness for our sins.
- We recognize that we never wanted to sin. We were tricked and confused by the *yetzer harah* that there would be light in the dark places. But we never wanted darkness, we just wanted light all along. The *klipos* confused us.
- When a person admits that he has become attached to some *klipos*, leaves them, makes a plan to improve in some small way, immediately Hashem forgives him for all of it. We show that we never wanted this and we really wanted to be with Hashem all along.

The Process

- We fill ourselves with our desire for Hashem.
- We return to Hashem with all our hearts.
- We distance ourselves from our sins, because we see how empty they are.
- We feel regret that we have strayed — we were searching for light and that's all we want, we regret giving in to darkness.
- We make a small strategy and commitment to fix what needs to be fixed.
- Hashem forgives us because He sees that we never wanted to be apart from Him in the first place, we just made a mistake with where our desire went.
- Our relationship with Hashem is deepened and we enter a relationship of love (*ahava*) and faith (*emunah*).