

"And Hashem said to Moshe, take Yehoshua ben Nun, a man of spirit." (27:18)

The relationship between Yehoshua, the disciple, and Moshe, the *rebbe*, serves as the paradigm of a *rebbe-talmid* relationship. Yehoshua's constant attachment to his *Rebbe*, symbolized by the fact that he never allowed even one word of *Torah* to escape unheard, was a basic reason for his advancement to *Am Yisrael's* leadership. His faithfulness and devotion were exemplary; his commitment and diligence were unprecedented.

The *Talmud* in *Bava Basra 75a* relates that when Yehoshua succeeded Moshe, the elders of the generation remarked, "*The face of Moshe was like the sun, while the face of Yehoshua was like the moon.*" Most commentators interpret *Chazal's* statement to be derogatory towards Yehoshua. He was unable to supplant Moshe in leadership and glory. The *Chofetz Chaim*, however, suggests a different approach to understanding this *Chazal*. Although Yehoshua's luster paled in Moshe's shadow, the elders realized that Yehoshua reflected Moshe's brilliance on a lesser level. Just as the moon reflects the sun's brightness, so, too, Yehoshua simulated Moshe's luster. We may derive from here an important lesson. A student should aspire to captivate his *rebbe's* teachings and personality, so that the student reflects his *rebbe's* character with his very nature.