

– Teka b'Shofar gadol l'cheiruseiu. Sound the great Shofar for our Freedom.

Horav Levi Yitzchak, zl, m'Berditchev, was known as *Klal Yisrael's* advocate, their defender who viewed everything through a positive lens. One *Rosh Hashanah*, following his *derashah*, lecture, preceding *Tekias Shofar*, he turned around, his back to the congregation, his face facing the *Aron HaKodesh* – and he began to cry bitterly. The congregation obviously waited patiently for their *Rav* – despite his incessant weeping, which seemed to go on and on. No one could think of a reason why specifically now, of all times, he was crying so passionately.

Suddenly, he stopped crying and spoke softly to Hashem, like a son speaking to his father, “*Ribono Shel Olam*, You commanded us in Your Torah to blow *Shofar* on *Rosh Hashanah*. According to *Halachah*, we are able to fulfill the *mitzvah* with merely nine *tekios*, blasts. Yet, we blow 101 blasts. This is all because of one single *mitzvah* which You gave us. Furthermore, we are not the only ones doing this. Every congregation, in every city in the world, under all conditions, each and every year – year in and year out – has been doing this for thousands of years. Millions of *tekios* have been blown – all in Your honor, to glorify You. All that we ask of You is one single *tekia*, one solitary blast, that will herald our Redemption. *Teka b'Shofar gadol l'cheiruseinu!*” The *Rebbe* concluded his supplication and once again burst into bitter weeping. What an incredible story to think about when we recite the tenth blessing of the *Shemoneh Esrai*.