

(The) Life and death I have set before you, the blessing and the curse; therefore/and you (should) choose life. (30:19)

The Mirrer Mashgiach, Horav Yechezkel Levinstein, *zl*, was known as a person who approached *mitzvah* performance with enthusiasm and exuberance. His vitality and vigor did not wane even as he advanced in age. He truly embodied the *pasuk* in Tehillim 92, "*A righteous man will flourish like a date palm...They will be fruitful in old age, vigorous and fresh they will be.*" Each of his tefillos, prayers, were the result of a unique rejuvenation. Each mussar lecture was a new experience. To listen to him was to share in the re-invigoration of his spirit. No aspect of his spiritual ritual could be termed complacent.

One of *Horav Levinstein's* students related that as he was taking leave of him, the *Mashgiach* said, "Tell our students that the *Torah's* imperative, "*you shall choose life,*" is a directive which is never-ending. We are to diligently choose life, constantly seeking ways for self-improvement. The greatest danger in one's spiritual development is stagnation. One either grows constantly, or he falls behind. On the road to spiritual ascension, inertia is tantamount to failure.