



## Rosh Hashanah Din

**R**osh Hashana is also called Yom Hadin, the Day of Judgment. This title evokes a formidable image: man standing before the Almighty, trembling in fear, not knowing the outcome of the Divine sentence. Will he be inscribed in the Book of Life or not?

On the other hand, Rosh Hashana commemorates the ultimate act of Chesed, kindness, the creation of man. How can we understand this paradox?

The Universe cannot be based solely upon a system of kindness wherein man is only a taker. If one subsists solely on the largesse of others he exists in a severely diminished capacity. When one gives without enabling the other to earn his keep, this constitutes a lack of kindness.

G-d, in His infinite compassion, created a system where man is able to justify his existence. The system of Din allows man to earn the right to G-d's benevolence. Consequently, Din, where G-d determines if one has earned his keep, as it were, is the ultimate act of Chesed because it affirms man's ultimate achievement, the right to exist.