

**NEW YEAR MESSAGE 5774**

Tomorrow morning millions of our people in every corner of the globe will unite together as our ancestors have done for thousands of years.

What makes this day so powerful in its appeal?

How does it continue to attract such a diverse range of human beings?

What is it that somehow attracts both believers and sceptics; conservative and liberal minded; religious or secular Jews?

The answer in a sentence: It is the moment in time when we are given the opportunity to click the refresh button on all our relationships.

We begin by connecting to our core self. To try and recapture a little bit of that innocence and purity we all experienced as a child. A time when we knew the difference between right and wrong. When we were happy and full of hope. When great things were possible.

Which leads us to phase two: Our connection with G-d who is the source of all innocence and hope and who gives us the inspiration and strength to come back home by rediscovering our true self.

And finally and perhaps most importantly phase three: Our connection with our fellow man. For it is only when we love and empathise each and every Jew that we really connect with ourselves and with our spiritual father in heaven.

So on this momentous day let us seize the opportunity and refresh and reinvigorate all those beautiful relationships in our lives.

*Let us not take them for granted.*

*Let us fully acknowledge them.*

*Let us fully appreciate them.*

*Let us say thank you and let us reciprocate accordingly.*

Let us all together embark on that exciting path of life and friendship. For when we do we will in turn be inscribing ourselves and all our families in the book of life.

*By Yosef Vogel*