

I share with you a great story I heard from Rav Bienenfeld that is very appropriate and meaningful for this time of year.

"One Rosh Hashana I was ill in Shaarei Tzeddek hospital, and someone blew shofar for us. There was a non-religious Jew in the room who was intrigued by the shofar and he asked many questions. He then told us his story: 'I served in the Israeli navy on a submarine where Morse code was the means of communication. I became an expert in Morse code, able to send and decipher messages very quickly. Some years after serving in the navy, I saw the army was looking for a Morse code specialist to be in charge of several submarines. To apply for the job we had to be at a certain office between 10:00 and 12:00 in the morning. I arrived at 11: 50 and saw a room packed with applicants with no one being called inside. There was music playing in the background and I sat down for a few moments and listened.

'I then got up, opened the door to the office and said, "I came for the interview". ' There are many people waiting in line ahead of you', the secretary said, and you just came in? Wait your turn'. I paid no attention to her words. I just walked straight into the room and spoke to the person in charge. After just a few moments, I was hired for the job. The interviewer went out to the waiting room and told everyone, 'thank you all for coming and I'm sorry about the delay. You can all go home, because we've already chosen someone. 'It isn't fair, they all said in unison. 'This man came in last. Why did you interview him before us?' He replied, 'Did your not pay attention to the music? Listen carefully, it's in Morse code, and here' the hidden message: 'If you've come for the interview, just open the door and come in. Even if the secretary tells you to return, just go straight to the one in charge' 'This man understood the message. You didn't , so you're obviously not that fluent enough in the code'.

All the above was said by this unlearned Jew in the hospital who was seeking to understand the meaning of shofar. He then offered the following compelling insight. The shofar is also speaking a language, but one has to pay close attention and be expert enough to understand what is being said".

Indeed, that simple Jew was correct, for one of the primary purposes of shofar is to rouse us to do teshuvah. On Rosh HaShana the shofar with its own unique "Morse code" sounds, is speaking to us and saying, the time has come for you to just open the door and come inside. Do not be discouraged by the 'yetzer hara' secretary who tries to dissuade your from proceeding. The boss-HaShem-is waiting for you to enter and return to Him.

Sometimes, among all the many mystical reasons for the shofar, the simplest and most direct is the most powerful of all. In truth, **we all want the job of living another year** and hope to merit that zechut. The only question is whether we can hear the call, understand the coded message

