



בי"ה  
**Project:** Sermon Resource for Shluchim  
**Distribution Date:** August 29, 2006/ ה' אלול תשס"ו  
**Parsha:** Ki Teitzei / כי תצא

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1. Although I've never been in the delivery room I have heard my baby's cry.
2. But what happens just as the baby is born that makes him cry?



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2. The Talmud describes life in the womb as exceptionally serene.
  - A flame burns above its head
  - It can see from one end of the world to the other.
  - An angel teaches it the entire Torah.
  - It eats what its mother eats and drinks what its mother drinks.

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3. The turning point: The very first moment outside of the womb.
  - The child must begin to face the realities of life, which is why Heaven must administer the oath, "to be a Tzaddik and not to be a Rasha" etc.,
  - The angels warn the child, "G-d is pure and His angels are pure and the soul which He gave you is pure. So it is worthwhile for you to preserve its purity for if you don't G-d will take it from you."
  - As the baby emerges the angel who taps it on the mouth causing it to forget the entire Torah.



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4. The dream is over.  
Until now the child has been nourished both physically and spiritually, but now it must begin its fight for survival.



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5. This is the Chassidic interpretation of, "כי תצא למלחמה על אויבך".

The 'war' is the soul's fight against his evil inclination, to change it into a vessel for G-dliness.



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6. In simple terms:

Until a person is born he cannot contribute anything to the world. But from the moment he is born he can and must contribute steadily more.



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7. Every day is a new beginning; another opportunity to make a difference.



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8. The **הצנע לכת**:

Tanya describes a quiet person, who e.g. when giving charity, will do it so nobody know.

But this type of divine service is **not encouraged**; today mitzvahs must be done **firstly** because everyone should be able to learn from it.



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### 9. Another reason:

- “Performing Mitzvahs in a limited way, are two traits that stem from the “left side” (מדת הצמצום) the controlled and calculated side of divine service.
- But the right side (מדת החסד) the side that enjoys the fame is also the source of generosity.

One who gives charity noisily will end up giving more than one who does so quietly.



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### 10. In light of the above:

- Each must view himself as if we were reborn everyday, and continue to nurture,
- Not be like the baby in the womb who knows the entire Torah but **does not contribute**. For it is only once the baby has emerged from the womb that he can begin to make a difference in the world.
- And this is Childbirth under a Chassidic lens.

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