



**The Wembley Spanish & Portuguese Synagogue**  
**46 Forty Avenue, Wembley HA9 8LQ**

Chairman: Roger Lyon  
 Secretary: Dr Sonia Sassoon  
 Tel: 020 8904 5698  
 Mob: 07956 919 918  
 Email: [sonia.sassoon@ntlworld.com](mailto:sonia.sassoon@ntlworld.com)

Erev Rosh Hashanah, 5770

## **The Future of Our Present and of Our Past**

The renown Rabbi Israel Meir of Radin \*\*\* was talking to a very wealthy, successful businessman, who was boasting of his achievements, the size of his business empire, the number of staff he employed, all of whom reported to him and depended on him for their livelihood.

In that case, said the Rabbi, you must have ample time at your disposal to study Torah, to attend the services at the Synagogue and to carry out all your communal duties.

The businessman looked at the Rabbi in amazement, perplexed by his out of touch naivety. Rabbi, he replied, my business affairs are so complex that they require my attention 24/7 – in no way do I have the time even to see my family, let alone going to Synagogue!

“If you don’t have time”, the Rabbi retorted, “then you have **nothing!** – there is nothing worse than not having time”. And, continued the Rabbi in sympathy with his misfortune, “without having your own time at your disposal, you are but a slave, the poorest of the poor!”

On this holy day of Rosh Hashanah, please ponder: Do you feel rich enough in the sense that you have your time at your disposal for you to use as you wish?

This congregation had a glorious past – from humble beginnings in private lounges and hired halls to its own purpose-built Synagogue. Today, it proudly continues to be open and is functioning. This is due in no small measure to the dedication of the few, who are prepared to find time within their busy schedules and within their life style, to do what they believe to be their religious and sacred duty to G-D, their community and the next generation.

But it should not be left to the few, as it is within the ability of EVERY ONE of us to unselfishly play our parts and to mirror their efforts. It is in our hands to ensure that the sound of prayer, of old and of little ones, continues to be heard within our Synagogue. It is up to EVERY ONE of us to ensure that our past and our present have a future.

May the New Year with all its blessings begin – Tizkoo Leshanim Rabbot Vetovot.

Rev Yossi Hourl

---

\*\*\*One of the greatest Rabbis of Eastern Europe, 1838 – 1933. Popularly known as the ‘Hafes Hayim’ because of the famous book of that name which he authored.

## Did you know?

### Did you know that our Torah comprises:

5	Books
54	Parashot
5,845	Verses
79,976	Words
304,805	Letters

### And did you know that the number of letters in each of the Five Books is as follows:

Devarim	Bemidbar	Vayikra	Shemot	Bereshit
54,892	63,530	44,790	63,529	78,064

### But surely you did know that the number of times that each letter of the Alphabet appears in the entire Torah is:

Tet	Het	Zayin	Vav	Heh	Dalet	Guimel	Bet	Aleph
<u>1,802</u>	7,187	2,198	30,509	28,052	7,032	2,109	16,344	27,057
Tsadi	Peh	Ayin	Samech	Noon	Mem	Lamed	Kaf	Yud
4,052	4,805	11,244	1,833	14,107	25,078	21,570	11,960	<u>31,522</u>
				Total	Tav	Sheen	Resh	Koof
				304,805	17,949	15,592	18,109	4,694

---

*"Have you allocated a fixed time to study the Torah?"  
is the FIRST question one will be asked when one  
faces his Maker.*

*So, how many of the 304,805 letters of the Torah,  
are you going to resolve to read or hear in our  
Synagogue during the 31,536,000 seconds that you  
have available during the forthcoming year?*

---

---

*Find time for reading,  
or surrender yourself to  
self-chosen ignorance'*

*Confucius*

---