

GEULAH THROUGH GOLUS

77"7

LEARNING THE HARD WAY

There were no holidays in Israel as great as the 15th of Av and the Day of Atonement (Talmud, Taanis 30b)

Although the 9th of Av marked the beginning of many dark times, it has one silver lining: Lessons learned the hard way are never forgotten. In this sense, the transformation that occurs on the 15th of Av surpasses even Yom Kippur (the Day of Atonement). On Yom Kippur, we confess our sins and pledge to mend our ways. On the 15th of Av, we become a different people. We have learned our lesson and will never again repeat our previous sins. By making this permanent change, we help to bring about Moshiach and the Final Redemption.

Maamarim Meluket (15 Av 5735), vol .4, pgs. 167-75

