

Thanksgiving Day

by HaRav Ariel Bar Tzadok.

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Today in the United States is Thanksgiving Day.

It is a holiday that celebrates events that happened a long time ago. What they are does not matter any more; what really happened does not matter any more and to whom and/or with whom they happened does not matter any more.

What does matter is that a group of people, not too different from any of us, faced adversity and struggle and survived the odds. They were indeed thankful that they did survive. For this they gave thanks.

Two things are important about Thanksgiving Day:

- (1) *is that we give thanks for all the good that we have and*
- (2) *is that we remember to Whom it is we are giving thanks.*

In Torah, everyday is a thanksgiving day. Everyday we have something to be thankful for. How sad is it that we often forget this.

It is nice that here in the U.S. we set aside one day just to remember that which we really should be remembering everyday. Hey, everyone needs a reminder every now and then.

So, Happy Thanksgiving Day! Not only to Americans, but to everyone. We all have what to be thankful for and we all have One to Whom to be thankful.

So, let's put politics and culture aside and remember our common humanity. We all have a great deal to be thankful for; for however bad we may think our present portion is, it could always be worse and there are always those who have worse and less than us.

Give thanks for what we have, however little or however much and remember to "give thanks to G-d for He is good, for His mercy endures forever" (Psalm 118:1).

Hodu LaShem Ki Tov, Ki L'olam Hasdo!