PARASHAT TOLEDOT

17 - 18 NOVEMBER | 5 KISLEV

## **The Power of Community**



**HARRISON** COHEN

Gap Year Student and Tribe Madrich

There aren't any words to describe the events that took place on Simchat Torah in Israel. The worst tragedy to affect the Jewish people since the Holocaust. Evil beyond comprehension committed against us. But what I can describe is what I experienced afterwards, and what it felt like to be part of a united Israel.

Before October 7th, a political divide over the role of the Supreme Court was splitting the nation. As soon as the war began, this division was gone an instant. I haven't even heard anybody say the words 'judicial commitment to be there for each

reform' since. The people of Israel came together with a common causeto protect. Whether it's soldiers or civilians, the mission to defend and strengthen Medinat Yisrael (the State of Israel) binds people together despite their differences.

On a personal note, my Yeshiva in Jerusalem (Eretz Hatzvi) has committed itself to countless volunteering opportunities. We tied hundreds of tzitzit for soldiers, cleared out multiple bomb shelters and collectively gave hundreds of hours of work in food production factories and hospitals. During and after experiencing the above, I have never felt more connected to Am Yisrael. We are a people like no other, with an unwavering

other: it is truly beautiful.

Even after returning to the UK, it was inspiring to see the efforts here from countless organisations and synagogues. Packing boxes of food and first aid equipment for soldiers, events to discuss the situation. programmes for Yeshiva/Seminary students to continue learning. This happened everywhere. Jews became

My message is that this is something we can rejoice in knowing. That they can't break us. We will only grow stronger from this, be prouder to be Jewish, move closer to God and each other. We are united forever

Am Yisrael Chai.

## Parasha Word Pair-Up

Pair up the syllables from the two stars, to form 12 words connected to the parasha.



