

Reb Pinchas of Koretz

Imrie Pinchas

פסח שני - Pesach Sheini

I asked his son-in-law, the Maharal, regarding the matter of Pesach Sheni,	שאלתי לחתני מהר"ל בענין פסח שני,
and he told me that he had the custom not to recite Tachanun on the 14th and 15th [of Iyar],	ואמר לי שנהג שלא לומר תחנון ב"ד וט"ו.
and the reason: because on the 15th, the manna began to fall.	והטעם כי בט"ו התחיל המן לרד.
I do not know in whose name this is stated.	לא ידעתי בשם מי.

[NOTE: Summary

The speaker reports a conversation with **the Maharal**, who held a **custom not to say Tachanun on both the 14th and 15th of Iyar**. While the 14th is **Pesach Sheni**—a known day of celebration for those who missed the original Pesach offering—the Maharal also **excluded Tachanun on the 15th**, based on a lesser-known reason: **it was the day the mann (manna) first began to fall** for the Israelites in the desert. Though the origin of this tradition is uncertain (“I do not know in whose name”), it reflects the significance of Divine sustenance and its connection to joy and spiritual elevation.

Practical Takeaway

Pesach Sheni reminds us that it's never too late to return or reconnect—and the falling of the **mann** on the 15th symbolizes **Divine care and daily nourishment**, both physical and spiritual. These two days invite us to **rejoice quietly** and reflect on G-d's endless opportunities and providence. Use this time to ask yourself: *What have I missed—and how can I still show up?* Recognize G-d's subtle gifts that fall into your life “like dew” and take them not for granted. Small miracles count too.

Chassidic Story (Maharal of Prague)

A well-known story highlights the Maharal's deep sensitivity to Divine signs and hidden holiness:

Once, the Maharal instructed his students to **cancel a scheduled communal fast** that had been planned in response to a difficult decree looming over the Jewish community. The students were confused—conditions hadn't changed, and no salvation had arrived. But the Maharal explained:

“I saw in the heavens a gate open—not with noise, but with quiet mercy. Just as the mann began to fall gently and unexpectedly on the 15th of Iyar, **so too has mercy begun to descend**. Let us not weep when Heaven has already begun to heal.”

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Indeed, within days the decree was overturned through a surprising change of heart from the local ruler. The Maharal later remarked, "We must learn to listen not only to thunder but to dew."

Source: Story adapted from oral traditions recorded in *Maaseh Gedolei HaMaharal*, and cited by Rabbi Shlomo Wahrman in *Shemen HaTov* Vol. III. **END NOTE]**