



To this day my heart is warmed with the feeling of a mother's warm love when I don my tallis, and sometimes that is what gives me the strength to face my day. What is the connection between a tallis and a mother's love, you ask? That Tuesday morning so many years ago, after I had left my tallis at my parents' home Motzei Shabbos and my mother had to send it with someone to Lakewood, when I opened my tallis bag my heart was filled with love. I realized my mother had bothered to send it to the dry cleaners before returning it. Was that such a big deal? No. What I felt was the love I knew she had felt when she decided to clean it, as she drove to the cleaners, as she picked it up and when she sent it back to me. And that love is indeed otherworldly. If I would've picked up the tallis without spending the few seconds it took to focus on this, I would have lost out on my daily boost for the rest of my life.

Yet how much do we receive each day from Someone who loves us even more than any mother can possibly love her child? If we would only focus a moment, especially when reciting a *bracha*, how much love went into each and everything we receive all day throughout the entire process of its creation until it reaches us. Where did the bread you quickly finished off this morning come from? From when the wheat seed was planted in the ground, who made the wind constantly blow so that seed can get the new supply of carbon dioxide (there are only three parts of carbon dioxide in every 10,000 parts of air) it needs to grow? Who made the sun rise and shine each day for months on the green chlorophyll turning it into starch? When He did it who did He do it for? For You! As Chazal say, "One is required to say, the entire world was created for me." (Sanhedrin 37a) True, when a human does something for a thousand people his thoughts of benefiting others are divided by one thousand. Hashem is different, He is infinite, He makes the sun rise each day, to shine upon the greens that sprout from the seed that will produce the bread you will eat for a few minutes during breakfast in a few months from now, as if it was solely for you. How much infinite love did He feel throughout the months he performed the most amazing miracles to make that seed grow into wheat *just for you*?! If we would only take a moment to feel the months of constant and infinite love lying in the piece of bread before us we would all walk around with the elated feeling of love I have when I put on my *tallis* each day. And how about the miracles involved in each breath we take and everything else we do 24/7/365? Many. We say the *brachos* anyway, how happy, confident, satisfied and loved we would always feel and how much strength would it supply us with to face each day for the small price of an extra moment of focus! What a gift we give up our entire lives by not doing so?!

