

When Does the Day Begin?

by Rabbi Zev-Hayyim Feyer

A great spiritual master was asked by his students, "How can one determine the moment when the night ends and the day begins?" He turned the question back to the students.

One student said, "Is it when one can distinguish a sheep from a dog in the distance?"

"No," said the master. "It is not."

A second student said, "Is it when one can distinguish a date tree from a fig tree in the distance?"

"No," said the master. "It is not."

"Is it," asked a third student, "when one can identify a casual acquaintance at a distance?"

"No," said the master. "It is not that either."

"Well, then," asked a fourth student, "when is it?"

"It is," said the master, "when you can look into the face of a stranger and see your sister or brother. Until then, night is still with us."