

Each Jew Counts

Hashem's extraordinary action on behalf of the Jews is a clear indication of His overwhelming love for them. Compare this to a case in which someone sees a bully attacking his only child. He certainly goes out of his way to punish this bully. If it had been someone else's child, however, he might rescue the child, but the punishment would not be as severe. Rav Shimshon gives the following analogy to demonstrate how Hashem cares for each one of us. Imagine that a man has ten children. One is unfortunately ill, and the father spends every spare minute caring for him and seeing to his every need. If someone were to ask the father, "Why are you so devoted to this one child? After all, you have nine others," the reply would be; "This is not simply 'another' child. This is my Shloimele, and I have only one Shloimele."

Now, let us take this analogy one step further. The father comes to visit Shloimele's yeshivah one day. "Have you seen my Shloimele?" he asks one of the students. "He is probably at the pizza shop," is the quick reply.

"What could he be doing at the pizza shop at 11:00 in the morning?" the father asks, somewhat agitated.

"He was probably hungry," answered the student. "What is the difference? There are still another one hundred bachurim, students, studying in the bais hamedrash."

We understand that this reply is meaningless to the father. He is concerned with his son. Where is he? He is not impressed with the one hundred students that are studying Torah. His Shloimele is not there, and that is what is uppermost on his mind. Likewise, Hashem comes to the bais hamedrash in the morning during Shacharis and sees that His Shloimele is not in attendance. He goes to the bais hamedrash a few hours later, and He sees that His Davidel is not studying there. Neither is His Berel. The fact that there are hundreds of others does not change the fact that His son - a reference to each and every Jew - is not there.