

# אני לידיד לידיד

*Though he ruled over a vast kingdom, he had a loving and benevolent heart and all he lacked was a queen to share it with. The conceited eyes of the princesses proposed to him were unappealing. He had no need for them. On the contrary, what he needed was a girl with a pure heart. Now, after years of searching, he believed he had found her. True, his choice of the simple daughter of a lowly servant, would shock the kingdom, but it would fulfill his life's dream. When the matchmaker approached the young woman, he was shocked at how depressed she looked. Upon inquiring why this was, she replied, "What do you expect? Life is hard in the cast system we live in and I know the future won't bring any change. My only prospective suiters are poor servants like me." "Guess what?" He responded? "You're about to be the happiest girl on Earth. You know who's courting you now? None less than the King himself!"*

The *Mishnah* (*Avos* 3:14) states: Beloved are Yisroel, since they are called children of Hashem. A deeper love is shown by the fact that it was revealed to them that they are called children of Hashem. As it says (*Devarim* 14:1): "You are children of Hashem, your G-d." What is this deeper love that is made known by the fact that Hashem revealed His love to us? The *Maharal* (*Derech Chaim* *ibid*) explains: One can adore another without revealing it to him. However, when one is overwhelmed with love for another, he reveals it to him in the desire that the other should love him in return. Hashem's love is so great, He revealed it to us. For Hashem "desires and seeks our love, and this is an even greater level of endearment."

Try to wrap your mind around this! In the heavens above, Hashem sits upon the *Kisei Hakavod* surrounded by "9,990,000,000 *Malachim*. Each vary in size, between a third of the size of Earth (*Chullin* 91b) and hundreds of times its size (*Chagigah* 13b). The *Serafim* among them can burn the entire world with the mere breath of their mouths. (*Sifri, Devarim* 32:2) They all tremble in awe as they merit the opportunity of saying 'Kadosh' to Hashem. Some merit this daily, others monthly, others only yearly, some once every fifty years, and others once in their entire existence." (*Chulin* *ibid* and *Tanna D'Vei Eliyahu Zuta* 12:1). Yet, He not only loves you personally, His love is so overwhelming that He is not content with just loving you. He, The Creator and Sustainer of the universe, "desires and seeks your love" towards Him! He calls us His wife! (*Shir HaShirim* 5:2) Is there a more uplifting and heartwarming thought?! Are feelings of unhappiness or lowliness still possible in such a world?!

