

אֵיךְ לִזְכֹּר אֶת יְרוּשָׁלַיִם

A slave nation being lifted from the depths of despair through infinite kindness. This is the picture that emerges from a perusal of this week's Parsha. How different though is Hashem's view of this scene: "*Go and call out in the ears of Jerusalem, saying: So said Hashem: I remember to you the loving kindness of your youth, the love of your nuptials, your following Me in the desert, in a land not sown.*" (Yirmiyahu 2:2)

The *Chida* (Chomas Anach) explains in the name of the *Mahari Kohen Zt"l*: *According to halacha, a husband can't compel his wife to go with him to a place of danger or where there is no food. And this is the praise of Klal Yisroel. Hashem in his humility holds this as a credit to them and even refers to it as a kindness, that they went after Him to a dangerous place, a dessert, in a land that is barren, where there is no food.*

Hashem freed us from a brutal holocaust where we were constantly tortured and murdered at every Egyptian's whim. He then leads us, surrounded by the *Ananei HaKavod*, taking care of our every need whether by day or by night. Yet, He considers it as us who did Him a favor by following Him. For it is not as freed slaves that He views us, rather, as His dear beloved wife! Who halachically need not follow Him into a place of danger! Is there a sweeter palate than His?! Is there a more fortunate nation than ours?!

