## אני לדודי ודודי לי

## Furthermore, with regard to the mann:

The students of Rabi Shimon ben Yochai asked him: Why didn't the mann fall for the Jewish people just once a year to take care of all their needs, instead of coming down every day? He said to them: I will give you a parable: To what does this matter compare? To a king of flesh and blood who has ... son. He granted him an allowance for food once a year and the son greeted his father only once a year when it was time for him to receive his allowance. So he arose and granted him his food every day, and his son visited him every day.

One may ask: True, Hashem desires a relationship with me as a father craves a relationship with his son, but Hashem has millions of sons, so perhaps the analogy to a typical father and son is a bit different?

The answer to this question lies in the three dots in the middle of the above paragraph. They hide an additional two words in the Medresh which are, "only one". The Medresh adds these seemingly superfluous and even inaccurate words to tell us that Hashem's desire to have an intimate relationship with each and every one of us is not only comparable to a father's craving for a constant connection with his son. Rather, despite the millions of "sons" He has in the world He craves a relationship with each one individually as if he were His only son in the world!

