



“My Sister! My Wife! My Faultless Dove!”

(Shir HaShirim 5:2)

“This is analogous to the wife of a king who, upon entering the palace and seeing instruments of punishment, was struck by fear. The king said to her: ‘*Don’t fear, these instruments are designed for the slaves. You, however, are meant to eat, drink and be merry.*’ Similarly, when *Klal Yisroel* heard the Torah portion of plagues they were fearful. Moshe said to them: ‘*Don’t fear, these are for the nations of the world. You, however, are meant to eat, drink and be merry.*’ As the *pasuk* (*Mishlei 19:29*) states: ‘*Punishments are prepared for the scoffers,*’ and the *pasuk* also states (*Tehilim 32:10*): ‘*Many are the torments of the wicked, however, he who has bitachon in Hashem, kindness will surround him.*”

(Medrash Rabah, Vayikra, 15)

The *Akeidas Yitzchak* asks: The facts seem to contradict these words, for all of the plagues mentioned in the above Torah portion are found amongst the members of our nation just as they are found amongst gentiles?

Perhaps we can suggest that the *Medrash* is teaching us the proper outlook in our relationship with Hashem. The punishments found in the Torah should not be viewed as prepared for us as the King of the World’s subjects in order to ensure our proper behavior. Rather, we must view ourselves in the true perspective, as the beloved of the Creator of the World who were created solely to, “Eat, drink and be merry” – for all eternity. The punishments written in the Torah should be viewed as designed solely for the nations of the world, completely out of the intent of the Creator for the destiny of His beloved who by merely trusting in Him will never need to experience them. As the *pasuk* says, “*Solely kindness will surround him!*”

