



It was the first anniversary of their marriage and their happiness knew no bounds. Their love for each other had grown so deep, they lived it and breathed it constantly. Their first year had not come easy. had struggled together in poverty and angst, slowly growing closer as they drew comfort from each other and learned to appreciate, cherish and fan the flames of their deep love through their mutual devotion and sacrifice.

“The time has come for me to reveal the truth,” said the husband, dramatically as they sat down to celebrate their first year. “We’re really not as poor as you’ve been led to believe, in fact quite the opposite is true. I have many millions in the bank as well as a mansion that we’ll be moving into tomorrow!”

“Wow!” said his wife euphorically, “but why didn't you reveal this to me a year ago, life would have been so much easier?”

“That is most definitely true, however, if you would have known before we married that I was a millionaire and your every wish would always be fulfilled, would we have developed such a deep love for each other? The love we have, which is worth more to me than all the money in the world, is a result of our mutual struggles which forced us to look deeper into ourselves and our relationship, slowly but surely fanning the flames of our love to the level we enjoy today.”

Perhaps the above parable can explain the words of a perplexing *medrash* on the *pasuk* in *Shir HaShirim*: **“For this reason, Olamos loved You.”** (*Shir HaShirim* 1:3) *Because You hid from them the reward for tzadikim in Olam Haba (olamos) therefore, they loved You.* (*Yalkut, Shir HaShirim*)

This seems hard to understand, why would Hashem’s hiding from *tzadikim* the unfathomable reward He has planned for them in *Olam Haba* lead to their loving Him? To the contrary, revealing what He has in store for them should provide a much greater impetus to love Him?

Perhaps the answer is that we are all born with an infinite love for our Father-In-Heaven buried deep within our hearts. However, the sparks of this love must be flamed in order for us to truly feel it on a constant basis. If we were all born knowing the infinite reward waiting for us in *Olam Haba*, there would be no struggle to follow Hashem’s Torah and we would have nothing in our fleeting lives that would bother us. We would have no need to reach into the depths of our souls and slowly get in touch with and fan the flames of the infinite love for Hashem we all have buried within, through *Tefillah, Emunah and Bitachon*, thereby slowly building up a truly loving relationship with our Father-In-Heaven.

So next time we feel down while we struggle with our lot in life and therefore our relationship with Hashem, let us remember, such situations are what we were created for. They are the ultimate catalyst for developing an eternal relationship with Hashem!

