



You have captivated my heart - embedded in my heart is your love, ***My sister, [My] bride*** - Klal Yisroel who is compared to a modest bride. ***You have captivated my heart with one of your eyes*** - embedded in My heart is the affection for the smallest amongst you, who is as righteous as one of the members of the Sanhedrin, ***with one link of your necklaces***; and as one of the kings of Klal Yisroel! That the crown of royalty is upon his neck.
(***Shir HaShirim 4:9*** with Targum)

Our Father, Creator of Heaven and Earth, testifies: *Embedded in My heart is the affection for the smallest amongst you, Klal Yisroel.* Why is this so? Is it merely the irrational, emotional affection of a father to a son irrespective of his worthiness? No! Hashem tells us: *Even the smallest amongst you is righteous as one of the members of the Sanhedrin, and as one of the kings of Klal Yisroel!*

The regression of each generation is brought out in the words of Chazal: If the earlier authorities are as angels we are like humans; if they are as humans we are like donkeys... (*Shabbos 112b*) One can only imagine the righteousness of the Chofetz Chaim, but the righteousness of a member of the *Sanhedrin* so many generations before we can't even begin to fathom. So how can Hashem say: *Even the smallest amongst you is righteous as one of the members of the Sanhedrin?!*

Just as water reflects one's face, so does one's heart reflect another's (*Mishlei 27:19*). Perhaps when Hashem speaks of *the love embedded in His heart* due to our great righteousness he is referring to *the righteousness embedded in our hearts*. What is *the righteousness embedded in our hearts*?

Rashi describes *Shir HaShirim* as a description of the ***love embedded in the heart of every Jew*** (*Brachos 57b*). How can the description of the love embedded in the greatest tzadikim who ever lived simultaneously be descriptive of the love embedded in the heart of even the simplest of Jews? Because hidden deep in the heart of even the simplest Jew, buried under all the distractions of this world, is the same infinite love for our Father in Heaven bequeathed to us from our ancestors throughout the generations.

Therefore, at least in reference to the righteousness of their core, the love embedded in their hearts, indeed, the simplest Jew is as righteous as the very greatest, ***one of the members of the Sanhedrin, and one of the kings of Klal Yisroel!***

