

*Though the sisters were poor, their beauty, talent and kindness were known throughout the kingdom. It was not surprising, when Rachel was betrothed to a great prince from a distant land and Sara to the prince of their own kingdom. The brides were ecstatic for both princes' power and piety were world renown. As per custom, the sisters would only be wed in four years' time. Due to the great distance of his land, Rachel's groom was only able to visit her once a year. Sara, on the other hand, was able to speak to her groom a few times each day. Though they both knew how much they were loved by their grooms, the nature of their relationships, and therefore their general happiness, were very different. While Sara spent so much time every day conversing with her groom and developing her relationship, Rachel never got to speak with her groom and therefore the love that she knew of in her mind, she could not very well feel in her heart.*

Each and every one of us were chosen as the bride of the Creator of the universe, to eventually bask in His presence in *Olam Haba*, every second of which is a pleasure greater than all the pleasures experienced by every human, from Creation till today. We know this for a fact, for our betrothal (as Chazal refer to *Mamaad Har Sinai*) took place in front of millions of our ancestors in a revelation the likes that has never even been claimed by any other of the religions! The hundreds of millions of descendants of the original witnesses, lived their entire lives, under unbearable persecution. Countless times, whole communities willingly gave their lives so as not to deny this testimony.

However, knowledge doesn't equal feeling. Therefore, the Torah and Chazal set up systems whereby throughout every day of our lives, we can constantly communicate with He who has chosen us. Three times each day we conduct talks with Him, spiced throughout with extreme expressions of our love for Him and His towards us. "You loved us greatly... our Father, Merciful Father...and us You selected from amongst all the nations and brought us close to Your great name... with love...Our Father... You love us eternally... Your nation You love..." He tells us: Twice each day when you say '*Kadosh Kadosh Kadosh*,' please lift your eyes above to your house of worship, and lift yourselves up. For I have no greater pleasure in the entire universe as that time, when your eyes are lifted towards Mine and My Eyes are towards yours. At that time, I grab hold of My holy Throne at the image of Yaakov, and I hug it and kiss it and speak of your redemption and hasten your redemption" (*Tur*, O"Ch 121). Additionally, throughout the day we are required to communicate with Hashem before we take pleasure from anything in this world, reminding us that it is all from Him, bestowed upon us through His great love.

However, if we don't pay attention to what we are saying, though we may logically know of our lucky status, will we be able to feel it emotionally throughout the days of our life? Of course not! What kind of relationship can a bride who speaks with her groom three times a day without paying any attention to what she is expressing, have? To the contrary, she is in much worse shape than one who doesn't speak to her groom at all! If we focus and think about what we are saying, we will live our lives on Earth in a state of happiness such as that of Sara's in our opening story.

*Established By:*