

# SICHA POEM

*Likkutei Sichos, Vol. 31*

## Beshalach, Sicha 1

— By Mrs. Chanie Gourarie, Chabad Toms River

After the Yidden crossed the sea,  
To sing a song they were as inspired as can be.  
There are opinions three,  
About how the Yidden sang the song in unity.

Rabbi Akiva compared it to an adult who says Hallel on behalf of his congregation,  
To enable the listeners to fulfill their obligation.  
After the Chazan says each chapter loud and clear,  
“Halleluyah!” the listeners declare.

In the same way, to give thanksgiving,  
For the sea splitting,  
After each of the 44 verses that Moshe did say,  
The Yidden said, “I will sing to Hashem!” right away.

A second opinion, Rabbi Eliezer Ben Yossi HaGalili does share,  
Like a minor reciting Hallel, the song at the sea he does compare.  
In this instance, the congregation repeats every word,  
After Moshe, the Yidden repeated every phrase they heard.

Rabbi Nechemia gives a third opinion,  
He compares it to the way the Brachos before Shema are said by the Chazan.  
The Chazan just does begin,  
And then it is said all together by the congregation.

Similarly, at the sea, Moshe only began singing the song,  
And everyone, including babies and fetuses, joined along.  
The spirit of holiness on them did rest which gave each of them the power,  
To compose, on their own, the same entire song, and sing it together.

Although Ruach Hakodesh they all did possess,  
For the most unique experience of unity, they needed Moshe to start the process.  
Because the Nasi's Neshama includes all the Neshamos of his generation,  
He reveals the core of his people which is above division.

How the Yidden sang the song is not just a technical argument,  
About something that today seems irrelevant,  
But rather it is a lesson on a leader's ability,  
To inspire, within a fragmented people, a sense of joy and unity!

Rabbi Akiva describes a situation,  
In which Moshe inspires an entire generation,  
To surrender their egos and submit their individuality,  
To Moshe, who embodies the Jewish people's collective identity.

There was absolute loyalty in the moment,  
As the Torah says, "They believed in Hashem and in Moshe his servant."  
Moshe was "the humblest man on earth," to Hashem he was dedicated completely,  
Therefore he could inspire a few million hearts to become "we!"

The nation's gratitude Moshe sang alone,  
The people had nothing further to add on their own.  
"Yes we are in!" to everything that Moshe said they did agree,  
They were united truly.

Rabbi Eliezer argues that moments of inspiration are as powerful as can be,  
But when the "I" resurfaces the unity remains but a memory.  
His opinion is that Moshe created students who took his words to heart,  
They made his words their own but from their identities they did not depart.

Moshe is like a conductor of a symphony,  
Inspiring each musician passionately,  
To play their own instrument with creativity,  
While playing the same melody.

Rabbi Nechemia felt that this vision of leadership is still lacking,  
Because it is only meaningful as long as the conductor is conducting.  
What happens when there is nothing to repeat and nobody to direct,  
The symphony we can't forget!

Rabbi Nechemia does say,  
That if Moshe embodies the essence of Yidden in a true way,  
Then within themselves, Moshe's song, every Yid could find actually,  
To first hear the song from Moshe's lips wouldn't be necessary.

To start the song was Moshe's role,  
He identified the goal.  
Moshe didn't inspire disciples or submission,  
He inspired us to reveal our core within.

For Rabbi Nechemyah this is a suitable view,  
It means comfort and solace for every Jew.  
Rabbi Nechemyah taught that the greatest leaders lead in their absence,  
Even more than during their presence.

All three opinions are valid and vital,  
There are times when leaders inspire the surrender of the individual,  
Yet the true leader molds real disciples,  
And the greatest of leaders empowers leaders.

The Rebbe's name was Menachem,  
And he embodied Rabbi Nechemyah's vision.  
The Rebbe understood that you can't transform the world with followers,  
The Rebbe empowered us all to be leaders!!

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