

Use these words to fill in the blanks:

*** one * repeating * responded * start * the * together ***

IN THE PARSHAH:

In this week's פרשה we learn that משה led בני ישראל in a song of praise to Hashem, the שירת הים. How was this done? The גמרא brings three opinions:

1. רבי עקיבא says that only משה רבינו said the entire שירה. After each phrase that he said, all the Yidden _____ by saying only the words אֶשִׁירָה לַיהוָה ("I will sing to Hashem").
2. רבי אֶלְעָזָר the son of רבי יוֹסִי הַגָּלִילִי says that *all* the Yidden said the *entire* שירה, _____ phrase by phrase after משה רבינו.
3. רבי נחמני says that while משה רבינו *started* the שירה, all the Yidden then joined, and said the entire שירה _____ (with רוֹחַ הַקּוֹדֶשׁ).

QUESTION:

According to רבי נחמני, since all the Yidden had רוֹחַ הַקּוֹדֶשׁ, and were all saying the entire שירה together, why was it necessary for משה to _____ the שירה?

ANSWER:

When the Yidden sang שירת הים, they sang it in a state of unity, as _____.

They all said אֶשִׁירָה לַיהוָה - I will sing to Hashem, in the singular, rather than נִשְׁיָרָה, we will sing.

All Yidden are truly one, because our נשמה comes from אחד, and the one who can awaken and reveal the נשמה of every Yid is _____ leader of the generation, the נָשִׂיא הַדּוֹר.

This is why the שירת הים which was sung by all the Yidden as one had to be started by משה רבינו, the leader of his generation.

Further discussion:

What are the different levels of אחדות expressed by the three opinions in the גמרא mentioned above? (See שיחה אות ג)

