
Toras Avigdor

Junior

Adapted from
the teachings of
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פרשת שלח

What's a Kiddush Hashem

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What's a Kiddush Hashem

After the terrible story of the Meraglim, Hashem told Moshe that He couldn't stand the behavior of the Am Yisroel anymore. "Enough is enough!" Hashem said. All of Yaakov Avinu's grandchildren would be wiped out, *chas v'shalom*, and only Moshe Rabbeinu's children would be left over. And from Moshe Rabbeinu's family Hashem would make a new nation, a new Am Yisroel.

That would have certainly meant a lot of *kavod* for Moshe. He would become the father of all of Klal Yisroel.

But do you know what happened? Moshe argued with Hashem! He didn't like the new plan because he didn't care about his own *kavod*. All he cared about was Hashem's *kavod*.

Let's explain that:

At Kriyas Yam Suf, everyone announced **הַשֵּׁם יִמְלֹךְ לְעוֹלָם וָעֶד** — "Hashem is our King forever!" But it wasn't only the Yidden who said it. Everyone in the world said it! Everyone who heard about the great *nissim* that took place at that time realized Hashem's greatness. Everyone understood that Hashem is King over everything!

The Makkos proved that Hashem is King over the water, the land, the animals, the insects, the weather ... All of these things were completely changed around during the Makkos. So everyone saw that Hashem is in control of every single part of the universe.

But the *nissim* didn't end! In the Midbar, we were surrounded by glorious clouds — the *ananei hakavod*. Any goy who passed by the Yidden in the Midbar saw that there was something heavenly about these people surrounded by clouds. They saw that Hashem is the King of the world, and these people, who live among the clouds

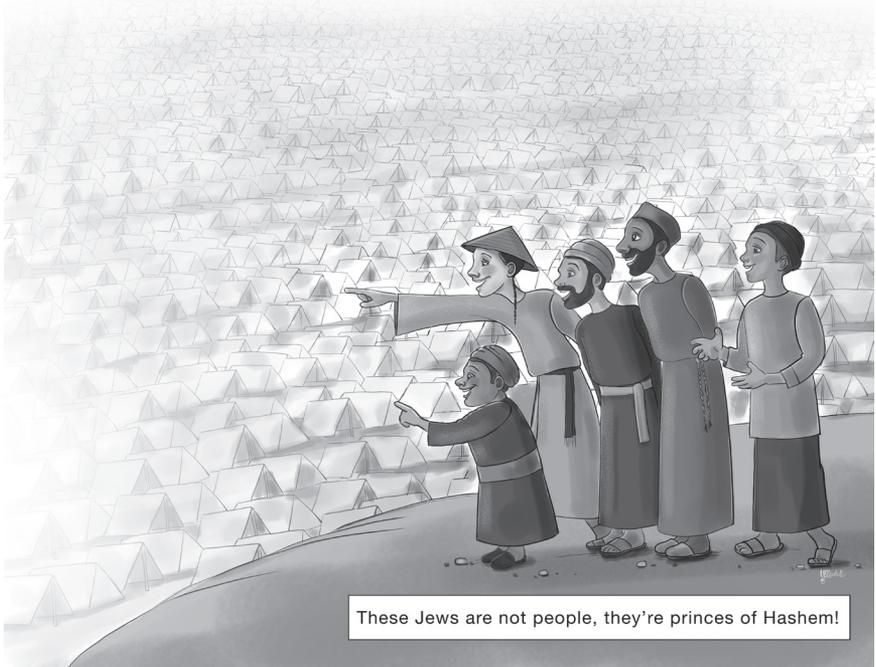
and eat Monn, food from heaven, are not regular people — they're princes of the King Hashem!

So there was a lot of kavod for Hashem at that time. The whole world knew and respected Hashem as the King.

So now, when Hashem said he was ready to wipe us out, *chas v'shalom*, Moshe Rabbeinu argued. He said, וְעַתָּה יִגְדַל נָא כְבוֹד הַשֵּׁם — “Let's make a kiddush Hashem!”

Moshe Rabbeinu was saying that it would be a terrible *chillul Hashem* to kill all the Yidden in the Midbar, because the goyim would say that the reason Hashem wiped out His people because He wasn't strong enough to bring them into Eretz Yisroel. And that would make Hashem look bad, *chas v'shalom*.

We see from this story that one of our most important jobs in this world is to make the name of Hashem great. It's called *kiddush*



These Jews are not people, they're princes of Hashem!

Hashem — to do whatever you can to make people think well of Hashem.

Always try to do things that will make the people around you say, “Wow! Hashem must be very special if His people behave so nicely.”

But there is another type of *kiddush Hashem* that most people don’t think about, and it’s just as important as the first one. And that is to think to yourself that Hashem is great!

You might be surprised to hear that, but the Rambam says that any time you see something in this world that reminds you of Hashem, that brings honor to Hashem.

Everything that Hashem created was made just for that — to remind you of Him. Apples weren’t made just to eat. They were made to get you thinking: “Look at this peel! Hashem made a wrapper that keeps the apple fresh, but He also made the wrapper look and smell good.” That thought is a *kiddush Hashem*!

And the truth is that if you pay a little more attention when your teacher teaches you science, you’ll know many more secrets about the wonderful things Hashem is doing for us in this world.

When you go outside on a sunny day and you say to yourself — “Look at that big ball of fire that Hashem made; it’s keeping us warm! And it also gives us light to see, and it helps all the fruit grow!” — you just made a big *kiddush Hashem* in your own mind!

When you do that, Hashem looks down at you and says, “You’re thinking about Me and making me great in your mind. You are the reason why I kept the Am Yisroel around! The Am Yisroel is here to make a *kiddush Hashem*, and you’re doing it! That’s why, in this entire universe, there’s nobody more special to Me than you.”

Have a Wonderful Shabbos!

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