
Toras Avigdor

Junior

Adapted from
the teachings of
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פרשת בלק

Your Precious Brother and Sister

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Your Precious Brother and Sister

Did you ever see a little boy counting jelly beans? I once saw a mother tell her little boy that he could have three jelly beans. His face lit up! It took him two whole minutes to choose the colors he wanted. Each one was a big decision: “One! And two! And three!” Three jelly beans! To a child there is nothing as exciting as counting candy.

Even when we get a little older, we still love counting, only that we count other things. Maybe dollar bills, or even hundred dollar bills. All our lives we’re counting the things that are important to us.

Now, did you ever hear of Ezra Hasofer? Today we call someone who writes sifrei Torah for a living a “sofer.” But Ezra was called by this name for a different reason. The word סוֹפֵר means to count. The Gemara says that Ezra was called “the Sofer” because he counted each letter in the Torah.

The Torah was so precious to him that he sat and counted each letter! “Ah, another ois in the Torah! Another letter!” Each letter was a treasure to count because it was the words of Hashem. Each of those letters came from Hashem’s mouth!

If someone is always counting something, that means it is really important to him.

Now that we learned what it means to count, we can understand a *passuk* in this week’s *parshah*. מִי מִנֶּה עֶפְרָיִם יַעֲקֹב. It means “Who can possibly count the many children of Yaakov? It’s like trying to count the sands of the earth! Nobody can count so many Jews!”

This *passuk* is said as part of a *nevuah* by Bilam. In the future, there will be so many B’nei Yisroel that it will be impossible to count them. Even now, *baruch Hashem*, our nation is growing bigger and

bigger every day, and it's very hard to count the Am Yisroel.

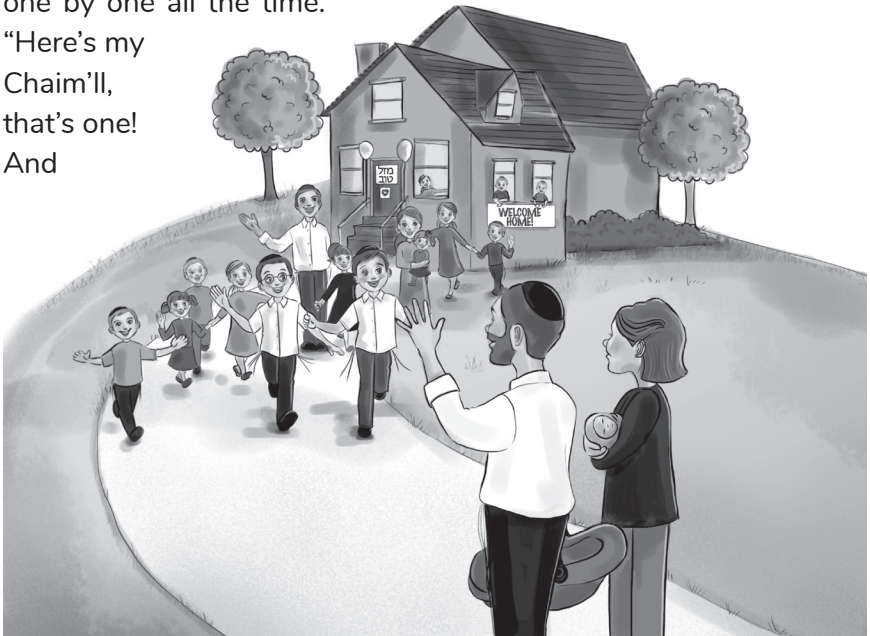
But actually we know that "Someone" does count us. We find that Hashem counts the B'nei Yisroel many times in the Chumash, and now we know the reason.

Hashem loves us so much that He simply can't stop counting us! Every Jewish child is like a treasure to Hashem. If you think your little sister gets excited over jelly beans, or your big brother gets excited about counting dollar bills, that's nothing compared to Hashem's excitement over every Yid!

Hashem counts us over and over again. "Ah! Another Yid! Ah! Another one!" He's so excited over each one of us. Whether you're a smiley person or a serious one, whether you're tall or short, smart or just average, there's no difference to Hashem. He's counting you because He loves you more than anything else in the world!

Hashem loves every single Jew no matter what! And that's why He's always counting us. You don't hear Him, but He's counting us one by one all the time.

"Here's my
Chaim'll,
that's one!
And



Chanaleh, that's two! Reuven is three, and Saraleh — four!" On and on He goes, counting each one of us; nobody is left out. And when He finishes, you know what He does? He starts all over again!

And that is why it's such a great *simchah* every time a baby is born. A new baby is not just exciting because he's tiny and cute. A new baby is exciting because Hashem is excited over the new baby! As excited as you are when the new baby is brought home, it doesn't compare to how excited Hashem is: "Another Yid!" Hashem says. "I'm so happy!" That's why we are especially happy at a *bris* or a *kiddush* — because we're joining Hashem in *His simchah*.

And one of the most important reasons Hashem is excited is because another Yid means that Hashem will be able to bring more of His Shechinah into the world. Hashem reveals His Shechinah more when there are more Jews, and that means that every little Jewish baby brings more kedushah into the world and makes it better.

And so, whenever you see frum Jews — in the street, in yeshiva, in the grocery, no matter where — you should always be happy! And you should always be thinking, "The more, the better," because that's exactly what Hashem is thinking.

Have a Wonderful Shabbos!

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