

# GROWTH

## At The

# SHABBAT TABLE

8<sup>th</sup> Edition  
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## PARSHAT BESHALACH

### Sing

### No One Left Behind

Chazal famously liken both *shidduchim* and *parnassah* to the splitting of the sea. What exactly lies behind this comparison?

Much ink has been spilled on answering this question, but there is one specific, beautiful explanation that was shared by R' Eliyahu Maksumov. Many people are under the impression that the sea split in one straight line down to the opposite end. However, the Midrash describes that actually, the sea split into 12 different open lanes, one per tribe, and went in a semi-circle. In other words, when the Jews emerged at the end, they ended up on the same side as they had started; the point of *kriat yam suf* was just to have drowned the Egyptians, punishing them *middah k'neged middah* for having drowned the Jewish baby boys. Now imagine, from a bird's eye view, the 12 semi-circles; as one *shevet* made their way around, there was another right next to them, circling around them, and another after them, etc. Obviously, as you keep counting outwards, each tribe's lane kept getting longer than the other. In other words, every semi-circle had a different radius and circumference; for some tribes, the journey was relatively short, while others took more time to get around. But at the end, everyone made it to the other side.

The same is true with *shidduchim*, as well as *parnassah*. For some, it comes very easy and quick to them. Some are fortunate to have married the "first one they met" or to have their dream job right away. For others, though, *parnassah* might not come so easy to them. Many have been searching for their *zivug* for years, some even still looking. In comparing these two areas to the splitting of the sea, our rabbis were reassuring us: *Don't worry. Even if you haven't found the right one yet, or you're still struggling financially, there's light at the end of the tunnel for you too. Your semi-circle might be bigger than your fellow's, but both still lead to the same place. Do not despair; Hashem makes sure that everyone makes it to the other side...*

Don't ever, G-d forbid, tell yourself things like "G-d loves him/her more than me" or "Hashem has abandoned me..." *Never*. Hashem loves you more than anything, and your salvation will come. Just hang in there, and don't despair. Hashem has His plan for each of us, and we need to trust Him that His plan is truly the absolute best thing for each and every individual...

As the Jews crossed the sea on dry land, they channeled their energy, excitement, and gratitude to Hashem in song. *Az yashir Moshe...*

R' Mordechai Finkelman related something profound. The *S'fat Emet* writes that in Lashon HaKodesh, many words sound or appear similar, because in essence they have relation to each other. One such example is the word *זממור (mizmor)* or *זמירה (zemirah)*, stemming from the *shoresh* *זמר (zemer)*, which means "song." Another word which shares relation to this is *זומר (zomer)*, which means "pruning." Pruning involves cutting down branches so that the tree/bush continues to grow even better.

It's no coincidence that these two words are the same. Music, when used properly, can "prune" the barriers between us and Hashem, bringing us even closer to Him. Songs have the power to uplift and inspire the soul on a different realm of existence. Out of every book in Tanach, it is *Sefer Tehillim* – essentially a composition of love songs to Hashem – which is read universally in prayers for salvations. On the flipside, improper music, embedded with *tum'ah*, can build barriers between one and his Creator...

*Songs penetrate the soul. It is no wonder that Bnei Yisrael chose to sing by kriat yam suf, utilizing the incredible potential of music for its highest purpose...*

#### Refuah Sheleimah, b'toch she'ar cholei Yisrael:

Ariel Ben Frida Frida Bat Yaffa Miriam Bat Bakol Shira Chaya Bat Rachel Esther Bat Frida  
Rahamim Ben Shifra Yitzchak Ben Naama Chaim Avraham Ben Shifra Zisel Idan Ben Tova  
Yoel Ben Sara Daniella Chaya Bat Oksana Oksana Bat Raya Yosef Ben Oksana Nina Bat Blor  
Tamar Bat Oksana Ellanore Bat Oksana Mihael Rahamim Ben Mazal Noach Yisrael Ben  
Victoria Yaffa Yitzchak Ben Riva Shifra Bluriya Bat Esther Yisrael Meir Ben Daphne Bruria

"The story you tell  
yourself about yourself is  
the story you'll experience.  
Choose your story."  
(R' Shmuel Reichman)