

ב ס"ז

# THE RASHI OF THE WEEK

Week of

# The Eighth Day of Pesach Shir Hashirim

22 Nissan, 5779 – April 27, 2019

Compiled from the works of  
**Rabbi Menachem Mendel Schneerson**  
**The Lubavitcher Rebbe**

by  
Rabbi Shmuel Mendelsohn  
North Miami Beach, FL

A Project of  
**Vaad L'Hafotzas Sichos**  
Copyright 2019©

## THE RASHI OF THE WEEK

# An Outline of the Rebbe's Explanation of Rashi Shir Hashirim

Likkutei Sichos Volume 22, Page 77

### Rashi in His Own Words

שיר השירים א', ב': יִשְׁקֹנֵי מַגְשִׁיקּוֹת פִּיהוּ בַּיְלָקְטִים דֶּקְעֵקְמִין:

רש"י ד"ה כי טובים: ונאמר דוגמא שלו על שם שנתן להם תורה ודבר עליהם פנים ואותם דודים עודם ערבים עליהם מכל שעשוע ומובטחים מאתו להופיע עוד עליהם לבאר להם סוד טעמיה ומשמעותה ומהלים פניו לקיים דברו זהו ישקני מנשיקות פיהו:

**Shir Hashirim 1:2:** Let Him kiss me with the kisses of His mouth, for your love is better than wine.

**Rashi Heading: for... is better:** This figure of speech was used because He gave them His Torah and spoke to them face to face, and that love is still more pleasant to them than any pleasure. They are assured by Him that He will appear to them to explain to them the secret of the Torah's reasons and its hidden mysteries, and they entreat Him to fulfill His word, and this is the meaning of "Let him kiss me with the kisses of his mouth."

### Introduction

As was the case last week, this "Rashi of the Week" is also being published on the holiday of Passover - Pesach, which marks our exodus from the Egyptian exile. Once again, the regular order of Torah readings is deferred until after the conclusion of the festival. Hence, instead of explaining a comment of the Lubavitcher Rebbe on the weekly Torah portion, we will adapt, and attempt to explain one of his discussions of a comment made by Rashi on the book of Shir Hashirim – the Song of Songs.

As we explained in the previous issue, Rashi's commentary to the Chumash is based on the simple explanation of the Torah. Rashi himself says so quite a few times<sup>1</sup>. This is one of the primary foundations of the Rebbe's explanations of Rashi's commentary. Not only is it Peshat, the simple explanation, but it is the simplest form of Peshat. This is because it is geared toward a total beginner.

However, his comments on the later books of the Bible are not the same level of Peshat. This is because before learning the books of the Prophets, the assumption is that the beginner has already studied the entire Chumash with all of Rashi's commentary. Before beginning the third section of the Bible – Tanach, the Scriptures, the student has already learned all of the books of the Prophets. He is therefore ready for an explanation written according to a broader level of Peshat. Shir Hashirim is a part of this section of the Tanach.

Additionally, we explained last week, that in many fine Jewish communities it is customary to read the book of Shir Hashirim on Pesach. Despite the fact that this is not the custom in Chabad, it is in the category of a

---

1. For example, see Rashi's comments to Bereishis 3:8 and Bereishis 3:24.

## THE RASHI OF THE WEEK

Jewish custom. We have been taught by rabbis of earlier generations<sup>2</sup>, that "a Jewish custom is Torah." In other words, it has the status of Torah. This is a statement which has been cited by the Rebbe on numerous occasions.

### What Rashi is Saying

The Rebbe explains<sup>3</sup> that neither the Torah nor the Mitzvos will be complete until the arrival of Moshiach and the complete and final redemption. The Sages teach us that Eliyahu the Prophet<sup>4</sup> will answer all of the questions which we have had in understanding the Torah throughout the generations<sup>5</sup>. Rashi clearly states here that in the future, Hashem will reveal all of the mysteries of the Torah. He does not specify that the "future" refers to the time of the Redemption. Nor does he tell us through whom He will reveal these secrets. However, the Sages also teach us<sup>6</sup> that "the Almighty will teach the righteous the reasons for the 'New'<sup>7</sup> Torah' which He will give us *through Moshiach*. Likewise, the Rambam writes<sup>8</sup> that Moshiach will teach Torah to all of the Jews. Hence, we see that the Torah will not be complete until the arrival of Moshiach.

The same is true of the fulfillment of the Mitzvos. Until the Redemption they will not be complete. The Rambam says clearly<sup>9</sup> that "King Moshiach will arise and restore kingship to the House of King David as was originally the case. He will rebuild the Holy Temple and gather the dispersed of Israel. All of the Torah's laws will be restored to their original state. We will bring offerings in the Holy Temple; we will keep both the Sabbatical Years and the Jubilee Years *according to all of their commandments* which are stated in the Torah<sup>10</sup>." Thus, our fulfillment of the commandments will be complete.

Elsewhere<sup>11</sup>, the Rebbe writes regarding the coming of Moshiach, that the prophet says<sup>12</sup> "a great company will return there (meaning to Israel)." Moshiach will certainly make a "Farbrengen," a gathering with this great

---

2. The Ramban in his comments to the Talmud Tractate Pesachim 7, b cites this expression. The commentary of Tosfos to Tractate Menochos 20, b uses the same expression. Additionally, Avos D'Rabbi Nisson 45, which was written in the era of the Mishnah, cites the same concept (in different words) regarding a custom which was only practiced by women.

3. Likkutei Sichos Volume 22, Page 77.

4. Eliyahu is the one who will announce the arrival of Moshiach.

5. This is written in the Tosfos Yom Tov's commentary to the Mishnah, at the end of Tractate Ediyus. See also the Sheloh, 409, a. This is based on what is written in the Zohar, Section 3, 28, a.

6. See the Midrash Osiyos (Letters) of Rabbi Akiva, in the section explaining the Hebrew letter "zayin - ז" See also Yalkut Shimoni on the Book of Yeshayahu, at the beginning of Section 429).

7. Although it says that Hashem will give us a "New Torah" with the coming of Moshiach, it is not meant to be taken literally. The Torah was only given to us once, at Mount Sinai. This was for all generations. Rather we will attain totally new insights into the Torah, including the "secrets of the reasons" of which Rashi speaks.

8. Mishnah Torah, Laws of Teshuvah Chapter 9, Paragraph 2.

9. Mishnah Torah, Laws of Kings, at the beginning of Chapter 11.

10. Until the majority of Jews live in Israel and the Temple is rebuilt, all of these laws have rabbinic status. None of them have the status of being Torah commandments. Hence, until the coming of Moshiach, our fulfillment of the Torah's commandments is not complete.

11. Likkutei Sichos, Volume 23, Page 241.

12. Yirmiyahu 31:9.

## THE RASHI OF THE WEEK

group of people. At that point, spreading forth the teachings of the Baal Shem Tov<sup>13</sup> will certainly be done with great excitement, for Moshiach himself will be the one to teach us "the secret of the Torah's reasons and its hidden mysteries," as explained above.

The Rebbe concludes, that then we will have joy beyond all measure, for joy has the power to break through all boundaries. How much more so is this true regarding the joy of the Redemption!

*(Adapted from a talk given on Shabbos Parshas Tazria, 5741 and Shabbos Parshas Tazria-Metzora 5742)*

**To dedicate a week, a month or a year of**

**The Rashi of the Week, visit**

**<http://rebbeteachesrashi.org/contact-us-dedicate-an-issue>**

**You can find us on the web at [www.RebbeTeachesRashi.org](http://www.RebbeTeachesRashi.org).**

**You can find see our blog at <https://rebbeteachesrashi.wordpress.com/blog/>.**

---

13. See the letter printed in the beginning of the Baal Shem Tov's work Kesser Shem Tov.

**DEDICATED IN HONOR OF  
the Lubavitcher Rebbe**

\* \* \*

**IN HONOR OF**

The Soldiers of Tzivos Hashem Chaim and Aiden Oded שיחי Morris

\*

**DEDICATED BY THEIR PARENTS**

Rabbi & Mrs. Menachem M. and Chaya Mushka שיחי Morris

\* \* \*

**IN LOVING MEMORY OF OUR FATHER**

Mr. Sholom Moshe ben Reb Shlomo Meir Hacohen ה"ע Cohen

Passed away on Shabbos Parshas Beshalach, 13 Shevat, 5779

May His Soul be bound in the Eternal Bond of Life

\*

**DEDICATED BY HIS FAMILY שיחי**

**מוקדש לזכות  
כ"ק אדמו"ר נשיא דורנו מליבאוויטש**

\* \* \*

**לזכות  
חיילי "צבאות השם" חיים ועדן עודד שיחיו מא里斯**

\*

**נדפס ע"י הוריהם**

**הרה"ת ר' מנחם מענדל וזוגתו מרת חי' מושקא שיחיו מאריס**

\* \* \*

**לעלוי נשמה**

**ר' שלום משה בן ר' שלמה מאיר הכהן ע"ה כהן**

**נפטר ש"ק פ' בשלח, י"ג שבט, ה'תשע"ט**

**ת. ג. צ. ב. ה.**

\*

**נדפס ע"י בני משפחתו שיחיו**