

**PARSHAT KI-TISSA,  
Rabbi Aharon Ziegler**

“KI TISSA ET ROSH BNEI YISRAEL”, WHEN YOU LIFT UP THE HEADS OF BNEI YISRAEL, MEANING, WHEN YOU COUNT THEM.

THE EXPRESSION OF “LIFT UP”, IS USED, INSTEAD OF MERELY SAYING “LISPOR”, TO COUNT, BECAUSE BEING COUNTED IS INDEED AN UPLIFTING.

IT’S A FEELING OF BEING IMPORTANT, OF BEING SOMEONE OF SIGNIFICANCE.

CHAZAL SAY, A, “DAVAR SHEH’B’MINYAN EINO MEVATEL”, SOMETHING THAT IS COUNTED IS NEVER NULLIFIED BY THE MAJORITY, BECAUSE THAT MINORITY, BEING COUNTED, MAKES IT SIGNIFICANT AND IMPORTANT.

WE MENTION IN TEHILIM THE GREATNESS OF HASHEM, THAT “MONEH MISPAR LAKOCHAVIM, LECHULAM SHEIMOT YIKRA”, THAT HASHEM COUNTS EVERY STAR IN THE SKY, AND CALLS IT BY NAME (TEHILIM 147).

EVERY INDIVIDUAL STAR IS IMPORTANT TO HASHEM, AND HE SHOWS THIS BY COUNTING EACH INDIVIDUALLY, AND CALLING IT BY ITS NAME.

WE CERTAINLY CAN LEARN FROM THIS HOW WE COULD LIFT THE SPIRIT OF PEOPLE.

A WHITE HOUSE AID, WHO RECENTLY RETIRED AFTER SERVING IN THE WHITE HOUSE FOR OVER 45 YEARS. WAS HONORED AT A FESTIVE DINNER.

SHE WAS ASKED BY A REPORTER, WHICH PRESIDENT SHE ADMIRERD THE MOST. HER RESPONSE WAS, HARRY TRUMAN, BECAUSE HE ALWAYS REFERED TO ME BY MY NAME, AND ALWAYS ASKED ABOUT THE WELL BEING OF MY FAMILY. THAT, TO ME, IS THE MEANING OF A GREAT PRESIDENT. THIS WOMAN WAS UPLIFTED, AND SHE NEVER FORGOT IT.

THE NAZIS, YEMACH SHEMAM, TRIED TO DESTROY THE HUMAN DIGNITY IN EVERY JEW, SO THEY BRANDED NUMBERS ON THEIR ARMS IN CONCENTRATION CAMP, AND REFERED TO EACH INMATE ONLY BY THEIR NUMBER, AND NOT BY NAME. IT IS SAID, THAT SOME INMATES EVENTUALLY FORGOT THEIR OWN NAMES, BUT REMEMBERED ONLY THEIR NUMBER.

LET US DO WHAT WE CAN, TO EMULATE THE GREATNESS OF HASHEM, AND UPLIFT THE SPIRIT OF THOSE WHOM WE COME IN CONTACT WITH. IT COULD BE A MAIL CARRIER, A WAITER, A BUS BOY, A DOORMAN, BANK TELLER, CAB DRIVER, ETC., AND LET IT BE SAID, THAT WE DID SOMETHING THAT THEY WILL REMEMBER US.