



As The Nurse Carries Parshas Behaloschah

The Rebbe was glowing, his body was paralyzed, but his spirit was strong. At home he was too infirmed to move, but at the holy site of Meron he blossomed. His attendants carried him from place to place, but when he got to Rabbi Shimon Bar Yochai's grave he was suddenly able to move about on his own, praying for the welfare of the Jewish People. The Lelover Rebbe would come to Meron every Shabbos on parshas Behaloschah for over forty years, and did not give up on it even well ill during his last days.

During one Shabbos eve the Rebbe explained the significance of this special annual visit. During the Second World War there was great fear of a Nazi invasion into the Land of Israel. The Rebbe decided to observe the commandment of reaping the wheat, which is done during this time of year. The Rebbe thought the merit of the commandment might serve to save the Jews in Israel. He then moved on to Mt. Meron. He later learned the Rommel had been defeated, and decided to go up to Meron every year, at the same time of year, to have a Shabbos of thanksgiving to G-d for the miraculous rescue from the hands of evil.

When my father, Rabbi Yisroel Grossman, eulogized him he mentioned the verse from our weekly parsha: "But the multitude among them began to have strong cravings. Then even the children of Israel once again began to cry, and they said, "Who will feed us meat? ...Moshe heard the people weeping with their families, each one at the entrance to his tent. The Lord became very angry, and Moshe considered it evil. Moshe said to the Lord, "Why have You treated Your servant so badly? Why have I not found favor in Your eyes that You place the burden of this entire people upon me? Did I conceive this entire people? Did I give birth to them, that You say to me, 'Carry them in your bosom as the nurse carries the suckling,' to the Land You promised their forefathers?"¹

My father then asked: where did G-d order Moshe such a thing, 'Carry them in your bosom as the nurse carries the suckling', Moshe would not say such a thing if G-d had not actually ordered him?

Father explained that Moshe was the loyal shepherd, and when G-d commanded him to lead His nation he understood the full extent of the task, carrying them in his bosom as the nurse carries the suckling.

"This was the Lelover Rebbe", father continued, "When he became the Rebbe he assumed responsibility for every Jew. He was a true leader, who was completely dedicated to the Jews, doing all he could for their benefit."

Indeed, when the Jewish Nation was in grave danger, the Rebbe did his outmost to save the people.

"But Rebbe", someone asked him during his last year, "You are suffering so much, maybe you should pass on this year's visit?" The Rebbe dismissed the notion and announced they were traveling to Meron. He would not forgo a chance to pray for the Jewish People. He then told me of his grandfather who would likewise make the trip, albeit the numerous dangers on the road. "Grandfather would say that when he came to Meron all his troubles would be smoothed out." The Rebbe smiled: "Don't you want my troubles to be smoothed out?" and then, like the leader he was, he said: "And what about the troubles of the Jewish Nation? They need smoothing out as well."

¹ Bamidbar 11: 4 – 12.