אני לדודי ודודי לי

I am currently in great need of Hashem's *rachamim*. However, I feel a bit foolish to begin davening now with such earnestness. If I were a tzaddik who always davened fervently and had a real close relationship with Hashem it would be one thing, but I am far from that, and my relationship with Him has been on the rocks for years. Indeed, I'm merely turning to Hashem now due to my grave predicament. Isn't that a bit disingenuous? Will Hashem not think, "Why do you only turn to Me in desperation?" Does Hashem really appreciate my sudden *tefillos*?

The *passuk* (*Shir HaShirim* 2:14) states: "Show me your appearance, let me hear your voice, for your voice is sweet and your appearance is beautiful."

The Medrash tells us that *klal Yisrael's* "sweet voice and beautiful appearance" mentioned in this *passuk* refers to when they cried out to Hashem before the splitting of the Yam Suf. To answer our opening question let us examine *klal Yisroel's* spiritual state at that time. Was it similar to that of a tzaddik who constantly prays fervently to Hashem?

The *Zohar* (*Terumah* 170b) tells us that at the time of *krias Yam Suf*, "the *malach* of Mitzraim asked Hashem: Why do you want to punish the Mitzriyim and split the see before *klal Yisroel*, behold they are all wicked before you? These are idol worshipers, and these are idol worshippers, these are migalei arayos, and these are migalei arayos, these are murderers, and these are murderers?"

The Medresh also tells us: *Klal Yisrael* at that time were comparable to a princess whose father, the king, desired for her to speak with him. When he saw that she wouldn't, he arranged for some of his servants to act as though they were bandits and attack her. When the princess saw she had no choice, she cried out, "Father, Father save me." So too, Hashem desired to hear *klal Yisrael* call out to Him, but they did not want to. Hashem then caused Pharaoh to pursue them. When they saw that they were being pursued they turned their eyes to Hashem and cried out to Him.

We see from the above words of Chazal what spiritual state *klal Yisrael* were in at the time and that despite having just been redeemed from slavery through the unprecedented revelation of Hashem's love for them, they did not want to call out to Hashem, only doing so in fear of death, yet even at such a time and in such a state what does Hashem say regarding their *tefillos*? "Show me your appearance, let me hear your voice, for your voice is sweet and your appearance is beautiful."

We see from here that the true inner state of each member of *klal Yisroel's* relationship with Hashem is always the epitome of sweetness and beauty. Even at a time when they sin and seem to be spurning Hashem's love immediately following His saving them from eternal slavery, even when their relationship seems to be on the rocks, in truth their actions are a mere aberration, a coating of dirt covering the true beauty and sweetness of their soul and the depth of their eternal closeness to Hashem. So, to answer your question: No! it is not one bit disingenuous. In fact, it is exactly you, in your current situation, to whom the Creator of heaven and earth cries out: "Show me your appearance, let me hear your voice, for your voice is sweet and your appearance is beautiful."

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