

As the little sheep took in the beautiful scene up ahead, she excitedly leaped forward to inspect it, but immediately felt her shepherd's staff on her back stopping her in her tracks. "Why?" she wondered, but she knew he was the one who provided her with all she ever needed so he must have a reason. It took her only a minute to realize her shepherd's wisdom. Indeed, right near her was an exceedingly luscious field where she had her fill of the finest grass she had ever grazed upon. Upon having her fill, she finally sat down to rest but she felt the staff again prodding her forward, "Why?" she wondered, but this too became clear after a short trek where she quenched her thirst by the crystal-clear waters of a stream.

The following is paraphrased from the words of Rav Chaim Volozhiner zt"l in his commentary to Shir HaShirim 1:8:

True Bitachon, Dovid HaMelech analogized to sheep, whose every need rests upon their shepherd without their having the slightest knowledge regarding how they will be fulfilled. So too must one throw all his needs upon Hashem, completely trusting that He will provide for him. This is the meaning behind Dovid HaMelech's words:

Hashem is my shepherd; I lack nothing. Sometimes I want to walk onwards but **He makes me lie down.** I wonder why until I realize it's to feed me **in green pastures;** Conversely, sometimes when I want to lie down **He leads me** - I wonder why until I understand it is - **to water in places of repose.**

Sometimes, even over the long run we see no good, and only suffering has come from what Hashem has wrought onto us. Regarding such situations, Dovid HaMelech continues:

Though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, complete darkness, **I fear no harm,** for I trust that it is in order to minister to me needed afflictions to bring closer to Him, **for You are with me; Your rod and Your staff—they comfort me.**

This also is the meaning of the passuk in Shir HaShirim (1:8):

If you do not know, yourself at all and you have no personal desire, only **O fairest of women,** who solely desires her Husband's (Hashem's) desire. **Go follow the tracks of the sheep,** just as they follow the desire of their shepherd; **And graze your kids by the tents of the shepherds.**

According to Rav Chaim Volozhiner reaching the lofty level of only desiring Hashem's desire is not as hard as we may think



for, as he explains, Hashem's sole desire is already solely yours's!