



Kiss me from the kisses of your mouth (this refers to Hashem teaching us Torah), for your love is finer than wine.

(Shir HaShirim 1:2)

Rav Yossi the son of Rav Chanina and the sages say: This is comparable to a king who was paying out the salaries of his soldiers through his ministers. When his son came, the king gave him directly from his hand to his son's... The sages say: This is comparable to a king who was eating pieces of food. When his son arrived he gave him a piece of the food directly from his hand to his son's. (Medrash Rabah ibid.)

Learning Torah provides us the closest relationship to our Father in Heaven. We are the recipients of the greatest gift in the world, the knowledge of all of its workings, with which all of the Universe was created. True comprehension of Torah, Divine wisdom, is solely possible as a direct gift, constantly flowing from Hashem to our minds, as we are engrossed in its study. Each and every bit of comprehension gifted from Hashem is so fittingly expressed by the above *pasuk* as a kiss from His mouth to ours.

The *Medrash* concludes, however, with yet another comparison which seems to add an additional insight into the depth of love conveyed by Hashem through giving us His Torah: “*And some say: The king denied the food from his own mouth, giving it to his son.*” What are Chazal alluding to by saying: “*The King denied the food from his own mouth?*” Do kings lack food that that they would have to deny it from themselves in order to give it to their children? Does Hashem lack anything by giving us His Torah?

Perhaps Chazal are referring to the unbelievable expression of love and trust expressed by Hashem giving over to the sages decisive authority over the Torah's interpretation. Even when a voice emerged from Heaven disagreeing with the sages, it was disregarded as the *gemara* states: *Rav Yehoshua stood up on his feet and declared, “The Torah is not in Heaven!” We do not pay heed to a Heavenly voice [in disagreement with the conclusion of the sages]* (Bava Metziah 59b).

When Moshe Rabbeinu went up to receive the Torah the angles said: *The desired possession [that Hashem delights in every day] you have hidden away 974 generations before the world was created and You want to give it to the sons of Man?* (Yalkut Shimoni Korach, Chapter 16)

However, in Hashem's great love for us He indeed gave it to us, so much so that our sages, not He, are the final arbiters of its meaning.

