

*The Rabbi of the assisted living facility could not get over the contrast. Mr. Jacobs and Mr. Fried both had to deal with wives who were nothing less than abusive towards them. However, whereas Mr. Jacob's relationship with his wife was in ruins, Mr. Fried's overwhelming love and care for his wife was obvious to all. One day, upon witnessing Mr. Fried's loving response to his wife's public mistreatment, the Rabbi commented, "You're unbelievable! How do you manage to keep it up when others who are treated similarly fall apart?" "Rabbi," Mr. Fried responded, "How can you compare my situation to my friends? While his wife is perfectly healthy, mine suffers from dementia. I know how much she really loves me, and seeing her suffering just arouses my love for her."*

Sometimes we come across people who have rebelled against Hashem in the most egregious of ways. We know from the study of Shir HaShirim the unbelievable level of love Hashem has even for them and we wonder, how could it be?

The following pasuk in Shir HaShirim with Chazal's explanation provides us the answer.

Sustain me with raisin cakes, refresh me with apples, For I am sick with love. (Shir 2:5) The Medrash explains these words to mean: Even though I am sick I am beloved to Him.

The above sickness of Klal Yisroel is obviously not referring to a physical sickness, rather it refers to our spiritual state. We see from here that in truth, the actions of any Jew even at his lowest state, are not a true reflection of himself. Rather, they are merely the actions of someone who has temporarily fallen ill, who with caring attention will surely recover. Therefore, of course Hashem's infinite love for him is not diminished.

