

אני לידו לידו לי

*It is taught in a braysa: Rabi Shimon ben Yochai says: Come and see how beloved the Jewish people are before the Holy One, Blessed be He. As every place they were exiled, the Divine Presence went with them. They were exiled to Egypt, and the Divine Presence went with them, as it is stated: "Did I reveal myself to the house of your father when they were in Egypt?" (Shmuel I 2:27). They were exiled to Babylonia, and the Divine Presence went with them, as it is stated: "For your sake I have sent to Babylonia" (Yeshayah 43:14). **Even** in the future, when they will be redeemed, the Divine Presence will be with them, as it is stated: "Then the Lord your God will return with your captivity" (Devarim 30:3). It does not state: He will bring back, i.e., He will cause the Jewish people to return, but rather it says: "He will return," which teaches that the Holy One, Blessed be He, will return together with them from among the various exiles. (Megillah 29a)*

It would seem that if in our exile the Divine presence is with us, all the more so would this be true when Mashiach comes. If this is the case, what is the meaning of the Gemara's words, "**Even** in the future, when they will be redeemed, the Divine Presence will be with them." If we already learned that the Divine presence is with us in our exile after having been sent away from Hashem due to our sins, isn't it obvious that when He returns us to Him His Divine presence will be amongst us?

The Maharal (*Netzach Yisroel*, 11) teaches us a life changing principle. Contrary to all logic it is indeed more obvious that Hashem's Divine presence is amongst us during the depths of our *galus* than during our ultimate return to Him. This is because a broken child, despite his demerits, needs to feel his father's presence far more than a successful child. Therefore, no matter our degenerate state during our exile and that we are the ones who rebelled against Hashem, our exile is the most obvious place where Hashem's Divine presence will accompany us!

For a son remains a son despite anything he may have done!

