



Kiss me, from the kisses of Your mouth for Your love (the words of the Oral Torah) ***is better than wine*** (the Written Torah).

(Shir HaShirim 1:2, Bavli, Avodah Zara)

The Written Torah is compared to wine, perhaps symbolic of its continued relevance despite its age. However, studying the Oral Torah is compared to receiving a kiss from Hashem for its understanding necessitates Hashem's continued intervention as the One who "Teaches Torah to His nation Yisroel".

Why is this intervention called, "kissing, from the kisses of Your mouth?" The *Zohar* explains further:

"Kiss me..." (Shir HaShirim 1:2) ...Shlomo HaMelech... began the praise of love between them with, "Kiss me" ... For clinging love, spirit to spirit, is through kissing, and kissing is by way of the mouth for it is the entrance way of the spirit and it's exit. When they kiss each other the spirits cling to one another becoming one... (Zohar Teruma 371)

The Torah is Hashem's thought, in this way it is a part of Hashem so to speak, when Hashem places the understanding of His thoughts into our minds it is as if he is kissing us on the mouth and becoming one with us in this sense.

This also explains why we find throughout Chazal, that the greatest thing that one can do to elevate his spiritual level and to come close to Hashem is the study of Torah. Chazal also tell us that this is the way to attain love of Hashem. Based on the above this can be simply understood. When we study Torah, Hashem is kissing us and imparting into us a part of Him, the Torah, whereupon we become one with Hashem. This makes us more G-dly, so to speak.

Is there is any greater closeness than this? Is there anyone in the world luckier than such a person?

