

For who is a great nation whose G-d is close to them, like Hashem our G-d, whenever we call out to Him?

(Devarim 4:7)

Rav Chaninah and Rav Oshiyah said: What nation is like this nation that knows the nature of their G-d. The custom of the world is that one who faces judgment dons black clothing, grows his beard and does not cut his finger-nails for he does not know what will be the outcome of his judgment. However, this is not so regarding Klal Yisroel who don white clothing, cut their hair and finger nails, eat, drink and make merry on Rosh Hashanah for they know the Hashem will perform miracles on their behalf, judge them favorably and shred their harsh judgments. (Yalkut Shemoni, Tehilim 148:14)

It seems that the fact that Hashem actually performs miracles and shreds our evil judgments is not sufficient to explain how *Klal Yisroel* are so close to Hashem. Rav Oshiyah and Rav Chaninah take pains to underline the fact that **we are aware** that this is “the nature” of Hashem and we place our trust in Him, in order to explain why we are considered so close to Him. True closeness is only felt when one is aware and focused on another’s love. The fact, as attested to throughout Shir HaShirim, is that Hashem is overflowing with infinite love towards us. All we need is to focus upon this and we will truly feel close to Him.

