

וְאַתָּה יְיָ אֱלֹהֵינוּ יְיָ אֱלֹהֵינוּ

You have captivated my heart, my sister, [my] bride; you have captivated my heart with one of your eyes, with one link of your necklaces.

(Shir Hashirim 4:9)

She had scheduled to go out with her chosson that evening, however, when she entered her address into Waze she realized that, due to overwhelming traffic, she would not make it home even close to the scheduled time. She thought that perhaps she should just ask her chosson to pick her up straight from work, but, after a long day of work she was not comfortable with how she looked. She decided to take a rain check for this date, despite how much she had anticipated it. “Better he not see me at all right now,” she thought, “than see me not at my best.”

Perhaps this is the understanding behind the perplexing statement of Chazal on the above *pasuk* in *Shir HaShirim*: “Anyone who expounds upon the Torah in public and his words are not pleasant to the ears of his listeners as a bride is to her groom, it is better that he refrains from speaking at all.” (*Medrash Shir HaShirim 4:9*) It is understandable that one should strive to present the Torah in its true state, however, if we cannot reach this level is it better that we not present it at all?

Sometimes the answer is yes, for by presenting it any other way we may diminish the pleasantness of the “*kallah*” in the eyes of her “*chosson*” for a long time to come. We see from here how careful we must be when presenting Torah to others, for we are doing no less than presenting a *kallah* to her *chosson*.

