

"For the crown of his G-d is upon his head." (6:7)

This degree of holiness attained by the *nazir* requires explanation. Should one be so exalted for abstaining from wine for thirty days? There are many individuals who abstain from wine and let their hair grow, and yet virtually remain on the same level of immorality and depravity as before. *Rabbi Leib Chasman Zt"l* explains that the principle virtue of the *nazir* lies in the thought and reflection which preceded his decision to become a *nazir*. His resolution to become a *nazir* comes as a result of a profound understanding of life, leading to a conclusion which enlightens him and changes his previous perspectives. He is now prepared to remove himself from any opportunity which could precipitate his falling into the clutches of desire. In the merit of this noble decision, the *nazir* receives the crown of Hashem.

We may suggest another insight into the *nazir's* great achievement. *Rashi* quotes the *Talmud* in *Sotah* (2a) that the *parsha* of *nazir* is placed next to the *parsha* of *sotah* to inform us that whoever sees a faithless wife in her degradation should separate himself from wine which brings one to adultery. Herein lies the greatness of the *nazir*. There are many who see but do not take heed. What they see with their eyes does not effect a response in their heart and mind. It is necessary to see beyond the superficial, to discern that which is being viewed, to appreciate the significance of each event that takes place. Every situation which we witness must be understood and its lesson acknowledged. The *Mechilta* (15:2) says: "The lowliest servant girl beheld of the Divine at the splitting of the Red Sea more than the prophet Yecheskel ever saw." *Rabbi Chaim Shmuelevitz Zt"l* once remarked, that despite being able to view Hashem's Supreme Revelation and sense His Presence, the servant girl remained a servant girl. What one sees must illuminate and instruct him. The *nazir* well deserves Hashem's crown. Upon seeing the *sotah's* degradation, he learns a lesson which he immediately applies to his personal life. The *nazir* does not merely see, he takes notice and acts.