

"Speak to the entire assembly of Bnei Yisrael and say to them be holy." (19:2)

Rashi explains that this *parsha* was proclaimed "*b'hakhel*" because the majority of the fundamental laws of the *Torah* are dependent upon it. All of *Klal Yisrael* assembled to read this *parsha*, while many other *mitzvos* focus on specific groups, such as *Kohanim*, *Leviim*, firstborns, or males, the principle of *kedushah*, holiness, pertains to all members of the Jewish community. Each member of *Bnei Yisrael* is enjoined to work towards this goal to the best of his capabilities.

Horav E. Munk, z.l., advances this idea. The presence of the entire community signifies that the ideal goal of holiness can be achieved only through the collective efforts of all *Klal Yisrael*. Although each individual is able to ascend to a high degree of holiness, his personal effort is of only relative importance. The majority of the basic laws of the *Torah* require the participation of the whole community. These *mitzvos* include the communal *korbanos*, the duties of social welfare to the community, *Shmittah*, *Yovel*, and the gatherings of Jews during the three *Yamim Tovim*. Members of *Klal Yisrael* cannot achieve perfection in isolation or solitude: it requires interaction with one another. *Horav Y. Neiman, z.l.*, offers another approach to understanding the need for the entire assembly to gather for the proclamation of *uhv, ohaus*. He cites the *Zohar* which states that this *parsha* was a source of great joy to the scholars who studied it. Why? He responds that one may think that only select individuals have the opportunity to ascend to the lofty degree of holiness expected by the *Torah*. This is not true! Everyone has the potential to achieve this apex. One must work and toil to reach for this goal. This is the reason that all of the Jews assembled together. The message is clear and applicable to everyone. One must only endeavor for this goal, and he will attain it.