

Aharon raised his hands towards the people and blessed them... and they blessed the people – and the glory of Hashem appeared to the entire people. (9:22,23)

A person can follow all the rules, do all that is expected of him; yet, without that special blessing, that prayer, that everything he has done find favor in the eyes of Hashem, it could all be for naught. *Klal Yisrael* had done it all, executed everything in accordance with the direction of Moshe *Rabbeinu*; still, the *Shechinah*, Divine Presence, had not reposed upon the Sanctuary. Something was missing. Only after they received the blessing of Moshe and Aharon did the work achieve fruition, and Hashem's *Shechinah* reposed on the *Mishkan*.

One can have the correct and proper intentions; his goals may be lofty and noble, but he still requires a blessing that his endeavor will increase *kavod Shomayim*, the glory of Heaven. Throughout the millennia, the *gedolei Yisrael*, Torah giants, would pour out their hearts in profound weeping when they established a *makom Torah*, a place which would serve as a bastion of Torah study. They prayed for its success, because they knew that, without the Heavenly blessing, their work would be rendered futile.

Horav Ephraim Zalmen Margolis, zl, established a *yeshivah* in his city, Brody, which was in the Lvov district of (then) Austria/Poland. While it was a good *yeshivah*, it nevertheless did not achieve the fame or success that was enjoyed by *Yeshivas Volozhin*. Once, *Rav Ephraim Zalmen* met *Horav Chaim Volozhiner, zl*, founder of the *Volozhiner Yeshivah*. After comparing notes, he asked *Rav Chaim* what could be the reason that the success of his *yeshivah* was limited.

Rav Chaim asked him, "What did you do on the day that the *yeshivah* was dedicated? How did you celebrate the milestone event?"

"We arranged a large, festive meal, accompanied by a band and much sensation and festivity," replied *Rav Ephraim Zalmen*.

"When we dedicated the *Volozhiner Yeshivah*," *Rav Chaim* said, "we decreed a fast and recited *Selichos*, accompanied with great emotion and weeping. Indeed, anything for which tears is part of its foundation will endure."

When the *Ponevezer Rav, Horav Yosef Kahaneman, zl*, laid the foundation stone for the *Yeshivas Ponevez* in Bnei Brak, he was suddenly overcome with extreme emotion, and he broke down crying. Everyone in attendance was moved by this expression of emotion. The *Chazon Ish, zl*, told him, "When one initiates a Torah project with liquor and sweets, there is a question of whether it will succeed or not. When one 'sows with tears,' he is assured that he will 'harvest with joy.'" Tears are the guarantee of success, because it is an indication of the sanctity of the project.