

"Then all the peoples of the earth will see that the name of Hashem is proclaimed over you." (28:10)

In a novel exposition of this *pasuk*, *Horav Eli Munk, z.l.*, cites the *Zohar Ha'Kadosh* who lists four *mitzvos* by which other nations can "identify" the Jewish People. They are: the *Tefillin*, which are worn on the head; *Shabbos*, which is an island in time that distinguishes us from the nations of the world; the *Yamim Tovim*, which basically have the same distinction as *Shabbos* and distinguishes us even from those nations who observe a "day of rest"; and the *mitzvah* of *Milah*, a permanent sign on our body. In the *Talmud, Menachos 55b*, however, *Chazal* only mention the sign of *Tefillin Shel Rosh*, when citing this *pasuk*. This sign is seen and acknowledged by all people, as the letter "*shin*" is engraved upon the *Tefillin Shel Rosh*. This symbol represents the *Shechinah's* presence over us as implied by this *pasuk*.

Horav Munk observes that the "*shin*" actually appears twice on the *Tefillin Shel Rosh*, once with three branches and once with four. He explains that the disparity between the two *shins* is attributed to their distinct symbolism. The three-branched *shin* appears on the right side of the *Tefillin* to symbolize the *Shechinah* which rests upon the merits of the three *Avos*, Avraham, Yitzchak and Yaakov. On the left side, the *shin* has four branches, which allude to the *Shechinah's* dominion over the four corners of the earth.

According to the *Baalei Kabbalah*, the *shin* with the three branches signifies the world with its failings and restrictions. Consequently, this *shin* is the one used in the twenty-two letters of the Hebrew alphabet, representing the language of humans. The four-branched *shin* is part of the Divine alphabet, consisting of twenty-three letters, which is the basis of the *Torah*. It remains invisible to us to this very day due to our human shortcomings. When Hashem's kingdom will be restored to its original state, with the advent of *Moshiach*, we will be privy to the alphabet of the Eternal.