

"Count the children of Levi... every male from the age of one month and above." (3:15)

The *Leviim* were an exception to the rule that men below the age of twenty were not counted in the census. Hashem instructed Moshe to count the male members of the tribe of Levi from the age of one month, since prior to thirty days old an infant's viability is uncertain. The distinction between the tribe of Levi and the other tribes is notable. Why were the infants of the *Leviim* counted, despite their inability to perform any type of service? The commentators offer various reasons. We suggest that the *Leviim* serve as the paradigm of the individual who devotes his entire life to Hashem. From birth they are nurtured with the notion that their lives are to be completely dedicated to Hashem's service. For the first thirty years of life, they are prepared for the auspicious moment when they formally enter into Hashem's service. When one's whole educational experience and upbringing focus on the area of spirituality, the "potential" is viewed as a portion of the actual fruition. This is inherently due to the vital role this preparation plays in the successful results of this endeavor. If we clarify and prioritize the spiritual goals for our children, we will achieve greater success in the preparation for achieving these lofty goals.