

## "Speak to Aharon and his sons, saying, so shall you bless the Bnei Yisrael." (6:23)

The *Kohanim* are to serve as the vehicles through which Hashem's blessing is bestowed upon *Klal Yisrael*. In order to transmit blessing one must maintain a harmonious relationship with the people. Indeed, *Chazal* teach us that a *Kohen* who does not "get along" with the people should not bless them. The **Maharsham, zl**, was bothered by the *brachah* which the *Kohen* recites prior to the blessing. He says, "*And He commanded us to bless His nation Yisrael with love.*" How does one express himself lovingly to all Jews? Does this "love" apply also to the *rasha*, wicked Jew, who has a distorted view of *Klal Yisrael's* destiny? Does the "*ba'havah*" apply equally to him?

He cited **Rav Shmelke, zl, M'Nicholsberg**, who said that we are enjoined to love all Jews, even *reshaim*. *Rav Shmelke* explained that all Jews, regardless of their spiritual alienation, have good within them. We are enjoined to focus our love towards that "concealed" good. Likewise, the *Kohanim* are to direct their blessing to the good in every Jew.