

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

Hashem commands that His blessing be conferred only by the *kohanim*. *Horav Moshe Shternbuch, Shlita*, suggests a practical reason for this. Regrettably, many people posit that the *kohen* and his present day counterpart, the *Torah* scholar are supported by the community without any reciprocation.

Many individuals believe that if an individual is not "working" in the way that they are, he is not contributing to the community. This notion is, of course, categorically wrong. The sustaining power of *Klal Yisrael* is manifest only through *Torah* and *Torah* scholars who devote their lives to its study and dissemination. This also applies to each individual Jew's material success. *Bnei Torah* should be viewed as vehicles for channelling blessing to *Klal Yisrael*. Consequently, they share as equal contributors to our material success. They should be recognized accordingly.

Horav Shternbuch indicates that the text of the *bracha*, "And He commanded us to bless His nation Yisrael, with love," which is recited by the *kohanim* prior to *bircas kohanim*, enhances this idea. The blessing is contingent upon the love and harmony that exists between the *kohanim* and the rest of the people. If there exists no mutual respect, then the blessing will not thrive. The *kohanim* must recognize those who support and sustain them, and the people must, in turn, pay tribute to the *kohanim* who are responsible for their blessing.