



Our Parsha begins with a reference to a woman giving birth: "When a woman (ISHA) conceives (KI TAZRI'A) and gives birth to a male (ZACHAR)" (Vayikra 12:20). The Lubavitcher Rebbe, in his inimitable fashion, sees in this verse a very profound message.

Citing the Ohr HaChayim, the Rebbe sees a clear reference to the relationship of Yisrael to the Ge'ula - the Redemption of our people. The woman, ISHA, refers to Knesset Yisrael and TAZRIA to that which is the springboard of the birth process (the Redemption), namely, the observance of Mitzvot and the carrying out of good deeds.

The birth of the male is the Redemption itself. The masculine term ZACHAR implies forcefulness, hinting at the eternal nature of the upcoming Ge'ula, concerning which the Midrash tells us will be accompanied by a SHIR CHADASH (a new song): Indeed, in contrast to all previous feminine renditions of songs of deliverance (SHIRA), the term SHIR is expressed in the masculine gender.

ISHA, the woman (Knesset Yisrael) - so

called by Adam because she was taken from him - symbolizes the longing of the woman for her man (ISH) and the close inborn attachment of the Jewish Neshama to Hashem (also referred to as ISH, as in HASHEM ISH MILCHAMA - Sh'mot 15:3). So, both on the collective and individual levels, wishing to please our "Man", we translate our souls' inherent spiritual longing for G-d into the expression of His will, through TAZRIA, the observance of Mitzvot in the material realm. **MP**