

FINDING JOY IN LIFE

Background

Chazal ordained specific *brachos* to be said to the *chosson* and *kallah* as they embark on their journey through life. One of these is that they should have deep joy and happiness.

The *Me'iri* explains that the actual *bracha* is that they should experience the same joy as did Adam and Chava under their *chuppah* in *Gan Eden*.

תלמוד בבלי מסכת כתובות דף ח/א

שמח תשמח ריעים
האהובים כשמחך יצירך
בגן עדן מקדם ברוך אתה
ה' משמח חתן וכלה

*Be joyous, beloved friends,
as your Creator made you
happy in Gan Eden.*

המאירי על מסכת כתובות דף ח/א

ואחר כך מברך על זוג
זה לשמחם בזוגם
ולהצליחם במעשי ידיהם
ולשמחם כשמחת זוג
ראשון בגן עדן וחותרם
בהם חתן וכלה

*We bless the couple that
they should have as much
joy in their union as the
first couple in Creation.*

Questions

Adam and Chava were born into an ideal world. There was no work to be done. Angels were at their beck and call. They experienced no pain. No suffering. No confusion and mixed messages. They were brilliant, pure, and understood their purpose in life with absolute clarity. Their only aspiration was to be close to HASH-EM. So, of course, they had a deep sense of meaning and satisfaction in their life together. When Hashem walked them down the *chuppah* – to begin the human race – they experienced unimaginable joy.

We don't live in *Gan Eden*. Life may have moments of joy and happiness, but there is also a lot of pain and suffering, hardships and difficulties. While we may aspire for direction and purpose in life, much of our time is spent in battle – with internal distractions and outside temptations.

How can we, in our times, wish a *chosson* and *kallah* the same joy that Adam and Chava had? It is impossible for them to attain it.