

על-ידי הנגינה אדם נכר אם קבל עליו

Song Shows the Yoke of Torah

THE TEACHING

One of the shortest teachings in the book: what a person's song reveals. Through a person's song (נגינה), you can recognise whether he has taken upon himself the yoke of Torah (על תורה).

Carrying the Aron on the shoulder is the yoke of Torah, and the same word means song. So the one who truly carries the Torah, sings.

MAIN POINTS

- The sign is a verse about the family of Kehas, the Levites who carried the Aron (אֲרוֹן):
"בְּכַתֵּף יִשָּׂאוּ" (במדבר ז:ט), "on the shoulder they shall carry."
- The Sages said: "אֵין יִשָּׂאוּ אֶלָּא לְשׁוֹן שִׁירָה" (ערכין יא.), "yisa'u means nothing but song", as it says:
"שָׂאוּ זִמְרָה וְתִנּוּ תִּף" (תהלים פא:ג), "lift up a song and sound the drum."
- That verse was said about the burden of the sons of Kehas, who carried the Aron on the shoulder, and that is the yoke of Torah.

A PRACTICAL TAKEAWAY · OUR OWN REFLECTION

A yoke sounds heavy, but the Torah's yoke comes with a song. Listen to your own niggun: it tells you how you carry the Torah.

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