

*me'imach*, what is Hashem asking of you" (*Devarim* 10:12)? What must we rectify, and where must we strengthen ourselves. These 45 *neshamos* – מ"ה – are crying out loudly "*mah*" – What is happening with you? Where are you up to in the world? *Geb zich a shuckel* – give yourself a shake! And as *Chazal* say (*Brachos* 59a), "Thunder was created only to impose fear and straighten the crookedness of the heart." Just like thunder, which causes trembling, was created to straighten out the crooked ways of the heart, a massive tragedy like this has the same purpose.

**If I may say, perhaps there is a *remez* here, a hint from Above, about what needs to be strengthened...**

When we examine this tragedy, we see something remarkable: The *niftarim* were from the elite of *chareidi* Jewry, each one with a sterling reputation, from across the spectrum of communities, of all ages, from all over the world. Sephardic, Ashkenazi; Chassidic, Litvish; a Skeverer *chassid*, a Breslover *chassid*; a Satmar *chassid*, a Lubavitcher *chassid*...

They all gathered there for an awesome, momentous purpose! Tens of thousands of members of Klal Yisrael stood there, side by side, in tremendous unity, one man with one heart, dancing together with exuberant joy. They all shouted together "*Shema Yisrael Hashem Elokeinu Hashem Echad*," and then, they rose together in a storm to the Heavens, with the flames of the *hadlakah*, like one man with one heart!

I think that now is the time to learn something – a good lesson – from what happened, and to gain more insights into the virtue of unity, to make the extra effort to live with one another in wonderful unity. To be *mevater*, to give up for someone else, to distance ourselves from discord, for each one to see the virtue of his friend, not his drawbacks, as Rav Elimelech of Lizhensk, zy"א said in his *Tefillah Kodem Hatefillah*, recited before davening. That will be our way of preparing for the Zman Matan Toraseinu, *k'ish echad b'lev echad*, like one man with one heart.