



HAFTORAH INSIGHTS

BY REBBETZIN DR. ADINA
SHMIDMAN
DIRECTOR,
OU WOMEN'S INITIATIVE



From Sound to Song

Last night we were at a concert. Two pieces were played back to back. The first was technically flawless. Every musician was fully present, precisely on time, deeply committed to their part. No one was off-key, no one was missing a beat. And yet, the sound was jarring, dissonant and harsh on the ear. Everyone was playing together, but the music never quite settled. It was sound, but it was not song.

The second piece was different. Each instrument still carried its own voice, its own line. No one disappeared into the background. But now those voices were listening to one another. Adjusting. Making space. And suddenly something shifted. The same number of players, the same level of commitment but what emerged was *shira*. Not

just sound, but song. Something melodic, something that lifted the room.

Shabbos Shira invites us to reflect on that difference, the subtle but essential movement from sound to song. Shira is not created simply by many voices sounding at once. It does not emerge automatically from passion, effort, or even sincerity. True shira is born when distinct voices align, when individuality is not erased, but oriented toward a shared purpose. When voices are not competing for dominance, but contributing to harmony.

The Haftorah opens with a striking formulation: בְּפָרֵעַ פְּרָעוֹת בְּיִשְׂרָאֵל, בְּהִתְנַדֵּב עָם – בְּרָכוּ ה' *When leadership stepped forward in Israel, when the people willingly responded — bless Hashem.* (Shoftim 5:2) Rashi notes that this praise is directed not only at those who led, but at those who *responded willingly*. Shira does not emerge from command alone. Presence is not enough; willingness is what allows sound to become song.

Ibn Ezra highlights the structure of the

NACHI REALTY 054-461-3943

Brand new apartments for sale on Mekor Chaim St.
Spacious 2, 3 & 4 rooms, mirpeset, storage, parking and Shabbat elevator. From 2.17m NIS.

Great opportunity to buy in a new building under construction in Arnona/ Talpiot - 2-5 rooms, great payment terms and prices start at just 2.39m NIS.

For rent in Wolfson Towers, Rechavia
Nicely renovated, 4 bedroom, 3 bathroom, 150m apartment on the 8th floor with an amazing view. Furnished. 13,700 NIS/month.

THE APPLIANCE DOCTOR
SHLOMO ROSHGADOL
058-558-2630
All brands, all models
In Jerusalem, Gush Etzion, Bet Shemesh
and everywhere in between.
Service within 24 hours.

posuk itself. Leadership initiates, and the people answer. These are two distinct movements. Leadership without response remains sound. Response without direction lacks coherence. Song is created only when the two meet.

Malbim adds a deeper and more sobering layer. He explains “בְּפֶרֶץ” as describing a moment when Israel was *parua*, uncontained and fractured. Whether because moral discipline had unraveled, or because the people were weakened and exposed, the nation was broken into many dissonant parts. And yet, בְּהִתְנַדֵּב אִם, if precisely then, a people steps forward willingly to act with courage, this is not a natural occurrence. It is a Divine one. That is why the pasuk concludes, בָּרְכוּ ה', *bless Hashem*, because when sound becomes song in a moment of fracture, it can only be by His hand.

Shirat Devorah is not a solo. Devorah does not sing alone, and neither does Barak. The song rises from a nation in which voices differ, roles are not interchangeable, and unity is far from guaranteed — yet purpose is shared. We often assume that unity requires sameness. Shabbos Shira teaches otherwise. Harmony is not uniformity. It is attentiveness. It is responsiveness. It is



MANICURE & MASSAGE

“Where Beauty Meets Healing.”

**Expert Nail Services, Relaxing Spa Massages
& Body Treatments.**

Experience a Little Bit of America in Jerusalem.

At our Spa, we pride ourselves on
exceptional customer service
and a luxurious, welcoming environment.

053 462 5851

SCAN FOR APPOINTMENT



the discipline of listening closely enough to shape something together.

Shabbos Shira reminds us that when voices compete, even sincere effort can remain mere sound. But when voices listen, when they attune themselves to one another, sound becomes song. This song becomes something strong enough to carry a people forward. ■



לבינסון רז ושות'

משרד עורכי דין ונוטריון

Lewensohn Raz & Co.

Law Offices & Notary



Moshe Raz,
Adv. & Notary

**Estates, Probate,
and Inheritances***

**Real Estate
Transactions**

**Tama 38 and Renovation
Construction Projects**

* Durable Powers of Attorney for Health and Financial Matters

27 Keren Ha'Yesod St., Jerusalem | 02-6731000 | 054-6380149 | office@lawlr.co.il | www.lawlr.co.il