

## THE SONG OF THE GOOSE

אָנוּ שְׁבִיבֵית אֹמְרָת: הוֹדוּ לֵה' קְרָאוּ בְשִׁמּוֹ הוֹדִיעוּ בְּעַמִּים עַל־לוֹתֵינוּ  
שִׁירוּ לוֹ זַמְרוּ לוֹ שִׁיחוּ בְּכָל גִּפְלֹאוֹתָיו.

(תהלים, קה, א - ב)



### **The Domesticated Goose says:**

*Thank Hashem, call in His name,  
inform the nations of His deeds.  
Sing to Him, make music for Him,  
speak of all of His wonders  
(Tehillim 105:1-2).*

The goose is amongst the most vocal of birds. It honks raucously, even for no apparent reason, as if

its message is too essential for it to keep silent. As a kosher bird, it symbolizes kosher and pure vocalization, and thus, its persistent trumpeting represents the proclamation of Hashem's praise, which mere words cannot adequately express. It calls to its human neighbors that they too should not be silent.

In addition, the Sages associate the goose with wisdom, and they see in its loud and expressive communication a symbol of the public teaching of the Torah. It says, "sing to Him", since the Torah is called a song.

Even animals sing to their Creator, yet so many people do not even realize that they are expected to do so as well. Let us consider: Why would Hashem, Who is unfathomably great, find interest in the creation of lowly man? Only in order that we should recognize Him, and give Him thanks and praise. Therefore, one of the greatest things we can possibly do is to gather together and praise Hashem in public, with the volume of our voices filling the shuls with Hashem's glory. Most aptly, we begin our praises every morning with the verse, *Hodu LaHashem*, the song of the goose.

Sources: *Berachos 57a; Zimras Ha'aretz; Maharsha to Sotah 48a; Perek B'Shir; Kenaf Renanim; Ramban (Shemos 13:16).*