

(one attendee's summary of the shiur – not reviewed by RYSharbat)

We see the phrase "*gavra rabba*" (lit., a great man) applied by the *amora* Rava to a *talmid chacham* who represents CHaZaL and their inference from two consecutive *p'suqim* (reading the end of one *pasuq* as joined without pause to the beginning of the next *pasuq*) to change the number of applied lashes from "forty" to "around forty", i.e. thirty-nine. What's so special about this particular inference, when CHaZaL seemingly ruled similarly in regard to the S'firah count, changing "fifty" days to forty-nine? Because the lashes-related change specifically indicates having regard for the other...and we are told that this characteristic is precisely why Moshe Rabbeinu *alav hashalom* [MRAH] (the "*gavra rabba*" whose Yahrzeit this and so many other Chevrei Qaddisha [CQ] commemorate) was chosen to lead *b'nei Yisrael* (hence, no surprise that CQ, whose members have that characteristic in spades, connect with MRAH).

We are told that MRAH literally left the comfort and shelter of the Egyptian palace to find out what was going on with *b'nei Yisrael* and to try to help them – that was why H' chose to call upon him. What was MRAH's response? He wanted to defer to his brother Aharon...and the Ba'al haTurim shows us that Aharon, too, had the key characteristic we're noting as part & parcel of the "*gavra rabba*" honorific: when *bas-Par'oh* saw MRAH in the *teivah*, the *pasuq* says, "*v'hinei na'ar bocheh*," and no, that wasn't three-month-old MRAH with the voice of a *na'ar*, it was Aharon!

Who else in our pre-e'Y' generations had this characteristic? Yosef haTzaddiq. Here he is, after all that has happened to him, and amazingly, when servants of Par'oh who haven't gone through all he's gone through are in a bind, he's the one trying to help them!

RYLevovitz and, before him, RMCordovero, help us understand just how important it is for us to connect with others in a spiritual and emotional way – when we join our soul with their soul to become one, we are truly imitating our Creator and accomplishing the ultimate goal of Creation. This is what you, CQ members, do, whether it's at or related to a *tahara* or at or related to the mourning of the surviving relative(s); this is the Chesed shel Emes.