



SOLDIERS OF HASHEM

BY: RABBI ELIMELECH STERN

Shortly after my son with Down syndrome was born, Harav Avrohom Schorr Shlit" a met with my teenage sons to share with them a hashkafic view of their new role. The following is paraphrased from the Rav's words to them in their highly uplifting discussion.

“Among the people of this world, there are some people that Hashem “loves,” and others that Hashem “loves very much.” Then on top of that, there are Hashem’s soldiers – those select few that Hashem chooses to “carry His load.” This “load” consists of holy neshamos that Hashem in His infinite wisdom chooses to send to this world for reasons known only to Him. But such a neshama needs a family who will accept it, who will care for it and nurture it as it traverses this world. The neshama will be a child who will need both parents and siblings. Together these “soldiers” will carry Hashem’s load for Him.

“It is important to realize that Hashem does not just send these neshamos to just any family indiscriminately. Before this child is born, Hashem scrutinizes each and every one in the family, parents and children. He checks their chemistry and faculties, and most importantly, their neshamos, to see if they are capable of handling such precious cargo. (Pointing to each sibling individually, the Rav added, “He checked you, and you, individually, to see if you can handle this.”) Only after Hashem is confident that each brother and sister is worthy and able of carrying out such a lofty mission does Hashem entrust this pure neshama into this family.

“This is not to suggest by any means that this will necessarily be an easy task. However, if you realize and appreciate that you were chosen by none other than Hashem Himself, to serve as His soldier in His exclusive army, you will accept your calling with pride, confidence, and joy, knowing in what esteem Hashem holds each one of you.” ♡