

## Sixty Heroes

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Parshat Naso

There is a midrash (legend) about King Solomon. It is said that, when Solomon became king, he found himself possessed by an overwhelming fear; he dared not sleep, for he was plagued by nightmares. In desperation, he called upon the Prophet Nathan, who assured him that G\*d would send sixty heroes to rid Solomon of all his enemies, so that he need no longer fear.

“That won’t help,” Solomon replied. “I dreamt of those sixty heroes last night – sixty armed guards around my bed, **three score mighty men of Israel, each with a sword at his side against the fear of the night.** (Song of Songs 3:7-8) I still woke from my sleep in terror; the presence of soldiers cannot bring me peace of mind.”

“Those were not the heroes I meant,” said Nathan. “The sixty heroes whom G\*d will send to protect you and not men; they are the sixty Hebrew letters which make up the Priestly Blessing – **The Eternal shall bless thee and keep thee. The Face of the Eternal shall enlighten thee and bring grace to thee. The Face of the Eternal shall be lifted up upon thee and shall bring thee peace.** (Numbers 6:24-26)”

Upon hearing this, Solomon at once felt at ease. From then on, he slept soundly. His nightmares ceased, and he was no longer fearful of anything.

As the Prophet Nathan taught King Solomon (even the world’s wisest man can learn from others), military power, physical strength, can never bring peace of mind. However strong an army may be, there is never a guarantee against another army’s being stronger. Security and peace of mind come only through an awareness of G\*d’s blessings upon us.

Shabbat Shalom.

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