



SIMCHAT SHMUEL

BY RABBI SAM SHOR

Program Director, OU Israel Center

Parshat Emor introduces us to one of the most mysterious rituals in the *Beit Hamikdash*. The *Torah* instructs us that we are to prepare and bake the *lechem hapanim*- twelve loaves that are to be placed on each of the twelve drawers of the *Shulchan*, and are to remain there constantly, each week new bread is placed for *Shabbat*, simultaneous to the removal of the previous week's loaves (*Vayikra* 24:5-8).

So too, *Rav Chaim Vital zy'a*, wrote that the practice of the *Arizal* was to have 12 loaves of bread at every *Seudat Shabbat* to parallel the twelve loaves of the *lechem hapanim*.

The Gemara in Chagiga (26b) tells us that *Reish Lakish* explained that these 12 loaves were displayed before all those who came to the Temple for each of the three pilgrimage festivals, and that it was stated before them- 'See how much Hashem loves

the Jewish People, the loaves are as fresh (from the previous week) now as we remove them, as they were when they were placed! 'Rebbe Yehoshua ben Levi stated that a great miracle occurred with the lechem hapanim loaves, they stayed fresh from week to week, they remained as warm as they were when they were placed.'

Reb Tzadok HaKohein of Lublin explains our *Gemara* as teaching a profound eternal message. The twelve loaves of the *lechem hapanim* represent the twelve tribes of the Jewish People. The miracle of the twelve loaves of the *lechem hapanim* staying fresh and warm demonstrated that *Hashem's* love and warmth is equally bestowed on each of the twelve tribes of the Jewish People. This miracle also is meant to teach us an eternal lesson, that if *Hashem* loves each and every Jewish tribe equally, then we too must strive to feel warmth and love for each and every member of *Klal Yisrael*.

May we merit to take to heart these beautiful teachings, to learn to see the beauty and warmth within one another, and to express our love for every member of *Klal Yisrael*. Even if we are not ready to embrace the idea of having twelve *challot* at each *Seudat Shabbat*, may we merit that our *Shabbat* table is indeed a place where every single Jew feels unconditional warmth and love. ■

Trust Properties Ltd.

Bilu st. - 110m, duplex, 8 stairs to get into building, elevator to 1st floor, 3 bedrooms & 2 bathrooms on bottom floor, kitchen, living room, dining room, library and guest toilet on main floor, 20m Sukka terrace, Asking price 4.9 M Shekels

For Sale – Old Katamon, Negba st., 1st floor, Arab house, 4 rooms, (total about 160m), high standard of renovation, Sukkah porch, 2 full bathrooms + guest bathroom, central a/c, elevator, parking, small machsan, asking 2,550,000 dollars

For rent on 9 Elroi st. – 4 rooms, 1st floor, elevator, parking, 110m, asking 10,500nis

Smadar 050-3114040 02-6424329 smadi_walla.co.il