SIMCHAT SHMUEL

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In our *sedra* this week, *Parshat Chukat,* the *Torah* recalls the song of thanks that the Jewish People sang in appreciation for the well which appeared in the dessert which supplied them with ample water to drink.

(יז) אָז יָשִׁיר יִשְׂרָאֵל אֶת־הַשִּׁירָה הַזֹּאת עֲלִי בְאֵר עֱנוּ־
לָהּ: (יח) בְּאֵר חָפָרוּהָ שָׂרִים כָּרוּהָ נְדִיבֵי הָעָם בִּמְחֹקֵק
בְּמִשְׁעֲנֹתָם וּמִמִּדְבָּר מַתָּנָה:

Then Yisrael sang this song- To the well, we called out! Well that the princes dug,that the noble ones excavated, carved out with their staffs, a gift from the wilderness...

Rashi, explains our verse-*B'eer Chafaruha Sarim-Well that the princes dug-* to mean-*this is the well that Moshe and Ahron dug.*

The Arizal suggested that the first letters of the first few words of our verse-***B'eer Chafaruha Sarim, Karuha*** -spell out an acronym comprising the word ***B'Choshech***-In darkness.

The ***Yesod HaAvodah, the first Slonimer Rebbe z'ya,*** explains the words of the *Arizal* as teaching us a very important, and eternally relevant message. When a Jew experiences times of darkness, when we might be struggling to find joy or fulfillment in our *Avodat Hashem,* then we should emulate *Moshe and Ahron* and "dig wells." In times of despair or in times when we feel disconnected or uninspired, we should dig deep and delve into and immerse ourselves in *limud torah,* until we find and experience once again the life-giving water that is the *Torah HaKedosha.*

May each of us be blessed with the strength and fortitude to "dig wells," to find the spiritual sustenance we need through the proverbial waters of life inherent within the *Torah HaKedosha.* ■

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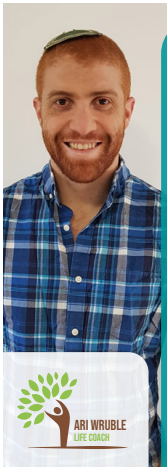

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