



## SIMCHAT SHMUEL

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The second of our two *parshiyot* this Shabbat, *Parshat Bechukotai* begins with the words:

*"Im Bechukotai teleichu, if you walk in my statutes and safeguard my commandments and fulfill them, then I will provide rain at its proper time."*

**Rashi**, in a famous comment explains the words, *Im Bechukotai Teleichu*- if you walk in my statutes, to be an instruction to immerse ourselves in Torah- *Shetihyu Ameilim Batorah*-to immerse oneself in the labor of Torah.

How are we to understand this insight of Rashi?

In the fifth chapter of *Sefer Iyov* (verse 7) we read: **adam le'amel yulad....**A person is born to toil/labor.

The Great Chasidic Master, the **Avodat Yisrael of Koshnitz zy'a** points out that the word **Le'amel-lamed, ayin, mem, lamed** is an acronym for the words **Lilmod al menat lelamed-** to study Torah, in order that we may teach it to others..."

How are we to fulfill the precept to walk in Hashem's statutes? By delving into the Torah's wisdom, and sharing the relevance, morality and beauty of Torah with others.

**Rabbi Avraham Borenstein, the Avnei Nezer, the first Rebbe of Sokatchov, zy'a** defines this experience of *ameilut b'Torah*, with these words from the

introduction to his work **Eglei Tal**.

*'The essential definition of immersion in Torah, is that one needs to find fulfillment, and sweetness or pleasantness in that which is being learned...'*

**Rav Kook, zy'a**, in the ninth chapter of **Orot HaTorah**, echoes these sentiments, and says though it is important that a person strives to achieve basic fluency and fundamental knowledge of all areas of Torah wisdom, it is important to recognize that as individuals each of our souls may be drawn more to a particular area of Torah study. True *ameilut*, is to find those areas of Torah wisdom that most resonate with our hearts and souls, and to let the sweetness of that wisdom permeate our entire being.

**Yehi Ratzon**, that each of us may find that *chelek* in the Torah *HaKedosha* within which our *neshama* may truly experience that *matikut*, the sweetness of Torah, and be blessed to share the sweetness of Torah with one another.... ■



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