



A Taste of Torah

A Publication of **Metivta Tiferet Torah** Queen's Premiere Yeshiva for Sephardic Boys

פרשת בהר-בחוקותי תשפ"א

The Torah's Protection

In Parshas Bechukotai, the Torah tells us "אם בחוקותי תשמרו" – If you will go in my Chukim, in my statutes, and you will watch my mitzvot, the pesukim tell us, we will get great Beracha in Gashmiyut, we will defeat our enemies, we will have peace. Life will be amazing.

The pesukim also tell us the flip side. If we will not listen to Hashem, and we will not do his mitzvot, and we will be disgusted with the statutes of Hashem, the terrible punishments of the tochacha will occur, r"l.

Rashi tells us that the pesukim are very descriptive of what we will end up doing, these are not just poetic terms. Rashi explains that the Torah is describing that due to various sinful actions there will be a natural progression of us sinking from level to level, deeper and deeper into sin, as follows:

If we will not be עמל בתורה, we will not work hard in learning Torah, then we will not fulfill the mitzvot. And if we will not fulfill the mitzvot, then we will come to despise others that do the mitzvot. When we continue down this path, we will hate the chachamim, who are the ultimate representation of those who follow the commandments of Hashem. If we continue to progress in this downward spiral, we will try to prevent others from doing mitzvot. Then finally, this trend will lead us to deny the truth of mitzvot, and ultimately deny Hashem, c"v.

In other words, each of these aveirot, starting with a slacking in learning Torah in depth, causes the worst sin of kefirah, denying Hashem.

We see an amazing thing about the importance of עמלות בתורה, of working hard in Torah. (Not just learning Torah. Rashi says עמלות בתורה. Ameilut means toiling,

working hard to understand the depth of Torah.) It has such a power and such a strength, that it, and only it, gives us the spiritual fortitude to stay connected, and gives us the ability to fight off and defeat the yetzer hara. But if c"v, we are weak in our עמלות בתורה, then we are opening ourselves up to the risk of sinking step after step until the person denies the existence of G-d.

Working hard in Torah protects us from everything. Without it we are vulnerable to the onslaught of the Yetzer Hara. Learning Torah is not enough. If we learn Torah on a superficial level, it will protect us only superficially. To get the real Koach of Torah, to get the real strength of the Torah, we have to be Ameil baTorah. That is what will help us fight off and help us remain strong against the yetzer Hara and be committed in our avodat Hashem.

**Harav Yitzchok Kolodetsky shlit"a
Son-in-law of Hagaon Harav Chaim Kanivesky shlit"a
visited Metivta Tiferet Torah to share Divrei Torah
and Chizuk with the Bnei HaYeshiva.**

