

Yisro

Vee'Vee'Sem Lee S'Goo'Lo Mee'Kol Hoahmim—In Parshas Yisro, G-d says to the Jewish people, "Then ye shall be Mine own treasure from among all peoples." G-d professes His eternal love for His chosen people, by referring to them as His most cherished treasure. G-d has invested heavily in the destiny of the Israelites, by depositing His essence and the Torah into their mission on earth. *Yisroel V'O'Ray'So V'Kudsho Boruch Hoo Chad Hoo*—G-d, the Torah and Israel are inextricably woven together. With this investiture of Torah, Israel shines as a beacon of light among the nations of the earth.

There can be no additives or supplements to a deficiency of Torah in one's life. It was the Rogotshover Gaon, Rav Yosaif Rosen *zt'l*, who is famed for his remark, while conversing in learning as a mournër sitting "*Shivah*"—*Eech Vays Ahs An Ovayl Tor Nit Lernen, Ober An Ovayl Darf Oich Otemen*—"I know full well that a mourner is forbidden to study Torah, but a mourner is also allowed to breathe."

All the deviations and estrangement from genuine Torah Judaism can be traced directly to an unbalanced diet of Torah. Nationalism, Idealism, Character, Ethics and Morality, are prime ingredients in the maturation of a well rounded and composite Jewish Psyche, but without Torah Study he remains misguided, shallow and cold. The decent, enlightened, altruistic and magnanimous Jews who are deprived of the treasure of Torah, cannot be included in the "*Segulo circle*" and are missing that Divine rapture.

It was the sharp-witted Menachem Mendel of Kotzk, the Kotzker Rebbe, who put teeth into the requirement of the Talmud, to be—*Memaleh Krayso B'shas Oo'Poskim*—that one must fill his stomach with *Shas* and *Poskim*. The Kotzker says—The statement should read that one must fill his mind, his heart and soul with *Shas* and *Poskim*, not his stomach. He poignantly answers—A Blatt Gemorra must indeed be likened to food that one consumes, that after a short lapse of time, his intellect and spirit crave knowledge of Torah as the stomach yearns for satisfaction. Only those who crave *Shas* and *Poskim*, as they do their favorite delicacies, are part of the "*Segulo Meekol Hoahmim*."