

Behar- Only if We Question, Better Not to Question

By Rabbi Eliyahu Kirsh

In Vayikra 25:19-21 we read, 'The land will give its fruits and you will eat to satiation and dwell securely on it. Should you say, "what will we eat in the in the seventh year? Behold we did not sow nor gather our grain." And I will command my blessing for you in the sixth year and it will make grain for three years.' Rashi explains that we are not to worry about a lack of food to eat. Hashem will command his blessings for the entire period before and after Shmittah year to see that we have plenty. The three years cover from Nissan of the sixth year when the bounty begins, the seventh year itself and the either year when the winter grain is sown in the month of Cheshvan but not harvested till the following Nissan. The implication of these verses is clear; we need not worry about having enough food as long as we follow the ways of the Torah and in particular, the laws of Shmittah. Hashem specially takes care of those who obey his word. Every Shmittah year bring s many miraculous accounts of those who survived because they followed the laws of Shmittah properly.

The Sforno writes that the Torah is only promising us an abundance of food so that we should not worry. But it would be even better not to worry at all. The Noam Elimelech of Lizhensk, Zt"l, takes this a step further. He quotes his brother R' Zusia of Hanipoli that it would be better not to ask such questions at all. After all, Hashem brings his *Shefa*, source of blessings and sustains the world

through spiritual pipes whose flow never really stops. Only when one falls from his level of trust in Hashem as the sole provider, then Hashem is forced to make new sources of Blessing that we can see. But if we do not ask at all, this flow of blessings remains constant. We need only to maintain our complete faith and trust in Hashem and then benefit from his kindness to the world.