

## Engraved Memories • Parshat Bechukotai

... e s with a “if...the ...”  
 siti . If y kee My la v s, G d says,  
 the e v ill be ec mic s e ity a d hysical  
 sec ity. I i t d ci g the “if” side f the  
 e ati , the e i g ve sec tai sth ee v ays  
 f c mm icati g that v e m st f ll v G d’s  
 la v s: (1) “If y v alk i my stat tes,” (2) “a d  
 kee my c mma dme ts,” (3) “a d d them”  
 (Lev. 26:3). This is seemi gly ed da t. If the e  
 a e e t a e s details i the T ah, v hy the  
 e etiti ? Rashi, ti g a mid ash, s ggests  
 that the st a t f the ve se, “If y v alk i my  
 stat tes,” adv cates f the lab i s st dy f  
 T ah.

The v ds i Heb e v f the st h ase, “If y  
 v alk i my stat tes,” a e “... -”  
 The v d, is c mm ly de st d as la v s  
 that t a sce d ati a l e la ati . The st  
 L bavitche Rebbe, Rabbi Sh e Zalma f  
 Liady, s ggests that, ca als be de st d  
 as elated t the v d, t e g ave. The e  
 is a f dame tal dif e e ce bet v ee v iti g  
 a chme t a d e g avi g st e. Whe  
 i sc ibi g a chme t, the i k eve bec mes  
 a t f the a chme t; they emai t v disti ct  
 e tities. E g avi g, h v eve , is embedded v ithi  
 the st e. It emai s e e tity. We eed t lea  
 T aht the i t that it bec mes i g ai edi  
 bei g.

I a semi ala ticle ab t the im ta ce f  
 mem yi abbi ic lite at e, Shl m Naeh,  
 fess Talm d at Heb e v U ive sity,  
 c te ds that the Talm dic sages c ce t alized

the lea i ga d mem izi g f T ah c te t  
 as a hysi l gical cess, v he e by the c ce ts  
 a e s t sed v ithi the b dy f the sage. Th gh  
 evie v i g, eciti g, a d mem izi g, the T ah  
 became a emb died a t f the lea e . This is  
 me e meta h . Rava c iti es the masses f  
 sta di g f a, , , b t t a T ah sch la  
 ( 22b), beca se the sch la als has the  
 v ds f T ah e gaved i t his b dy.

Ma y m de e sea che s s ggest that mem y is  
 “e gaved,” as it v e e, i the b ai th gh e al  
 et v ks. Acc di gt the the y fl g-te m  
 te tiati , v he t v e s a e activated  
 at the same time, the c ecti bet v ee them  
 st e gthe s. The m e times a idea is evie ved,  
 a st ge e al c ecti is c eated, f mi g  
 m e elab ate a d d able mem ies that ca  
 be et ievied m e ickly. F ll v i g this me tal  
 m del, etai i g T ah i f mati ca be  
 de st d as a lite al hysi l gical ma ifestati  
 f T ah ideas bei g e gaved i t mi ds.

This c ce tis t j sti tellect al, limited  
 t the mi da d ideas, b t is als esse tial f  
 cha acte a d vi t e. As Rabbi D . N ma Lamm  
 v e f lly f m lates i his 965, , “The  
 Tablets Withi ,” the la v s a d val es f the T ah  
 eed t bec me a i teg ated a t f the h ma  
 bei g. They eed t be “ ga ically b d v ith  
 y v s la d hea t a d mi d, i teg ated i t  
 y e s ality.” N matte v hat challe ges a d  
 cha ges v e e c te i life, elati shi a d

