

Engraved Memories • Parshat Bechukotai

... e s with a “if...the ...”
 siti . If y kee My la´s, G d says,
 the e´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 gve sec tai sth ee ´ays
 f c mm icati g that ´e m st f ll ´ G d’s
 la´s: (1) “If y ´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^xt a e s details i the T ah, ´hy the
 e etiti ? Rashi, ti g a mid ash, s ggests
 that the st a t f the ve se, “If y ´alk i my
 stat tes,” adv cates f the lab i s st dy f
 T ah.

The ´ ds i Heb e´ f the st h ase, “If y
 ´alk i my stat tes,” a e “...
 The ´ d, is c mm ly de st d as la´s
 that t a sce d ati a l e^x 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 ´ d, t e g ave. The e
 is a f dame tal dif e e ce bet´ee ´ 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´ disti ct
 e tities. E g avi g, h ´eve , is embedded ´ithi
 the st e. It emai s e e tity. We eed t lea
 T ah t the i t that it bec mes i g ai edi
 bei g.

I a semi al a ticle ab t the im ta ce f
 mem yi abbi ic lite at e, Shl m Naeh,
 fess Talm d at Heb e´ 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, ´he eby the c ce ts
 a e s t sed ´ithi the b dy f the sage. Th gh
 evie´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
 ´ ds f T ah e gaved i t his b dy.

Ma y m de esea che s s ggest that mem y is
 “e gaved,” as it ´e e, i the b ai th gh e al
 et´ ks. Acc di gt the the y fl g-te m
 te tiati , ´he t´ e sa e activated
 at the same time, the c ecti bet´ee them
 st e gthe s. The m e times a idea is evie´ed,
 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 ´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 d a d ideas, b t is als esse tial f
 cha acte a d vi t e. As Rabbi D . N ma Lamm
 ´e f lly f m lates i his 965, , “The
 Tablets Withi ,” the la´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 ´ith
 y ´ s la d hea t a d mi d, i teg ated i t
 y e s ality.” N matte ´hat challe ges a d
 cha ges ´e e c te i life, elati shi a d

