



THE DAILY BY SIVAN RAHAV-MEIR

PORTION

Crumbs

וְטַפְּכֶם אֲשֶׁר אֲמַרְתֶּם לְבַז יִהְיֶה וּבְיַדְכֶם אֲשֶׁר לֹא יִדְעוּ
הַיּוֹם טוֹב וְכֵן הָמָּה יָבֹאוּ שְׂמָה וְלָהֶם אֲתַנְנֶנָּה וְהֵם יִירְשׁוּהָ.

And your little ones, who you said will be prey, and your children, who on that day did not know good and evil, **they will go there and I will give it to them, and they will possess it.** (*Devarim 1:39*)

The Lubavitcher Rebbe was childless. Nevertheless, he explains this verse by using imagery that resonates chiefly with parents trying to feed their young children. About to enter the Land of Israel, Moshe addresses the nation who will merit entering the land: “And your little ones... they will go there and I will give it to them, and they will possess it.”

Now they will have to work hard for their food

Young children play with their food and if they are given a slice of bread, more crumbs remain on their plate than go into their mouth. Still, the child does eat something. The Lubavitcher Rebbe compares this to the nation’s entry into the Land of Israel. The people are compared to a child, and the Torah to bread. In the wilderness, the

Torah was whole, perfect, and clean, which made for a comfortable existence. Once they enter the Land of Israel, the Jewish People will have to begin applying it in real life and it will turn into crumbs. They won’t have absorbed everything they were taught, and they will not be fully keeping all the commandments in a calm, relaxed manner. After all, their food will no longer fall as manna from the heavens like it did in the wilderness. Now they will have to work hard for their food and worry about their material existence.

Only a small amount of Torah (bread) will actually go into our mouths, and many crumbs will remain on the plate. The Lubavitcher Rebbe explains the parable and says that, nevertheless, this is the right thing to do and the natural course of history. God prefers the child’s attempts to eat, our attempts to keep the Torah in the Land of Israel, to the toil of the generation in the wilderness. ■

Sivan Rahav-Meir is an Israeli journalist, currently on shlichut for the World Mizrahi movement to the US. She is the author of #Parasha (Menorah Press) and Reaching to Heaven (ArtsScroll). She is now offering a new bat mitzvah workshop in Hebrew and English: <https://bm.sivanrahavmeir.com/en/>. To receive her daily insight on the portion of the week, text your name to: 972-58-679-9000