



SIMCHAT SHMUEL

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OU ISRAEL

In our *sedra* this week, *Parshat Chukat*, the *Torah* recalls the song of thanks that the Jewish people sang in appreciation for the well which appeared in the dessert which supplied them with ample water to drink.

אֶזְרָא יִשְׂרָאֵל אֶת־הַשִּׁירָה הַזֹּאת עָלֵי בְּאֵר עֲנֹה
לָהּ: בְּאֵר חֲפָרֶיהָ שְׂרִים כָּרוּהָ נְדִיבֵי הָעָם בְּמַחֲקָה
בְּמִשְׁעָנֶתָם וּבְמַמְדָּבָר מִתְנַהּ:

Then *Yisrael* sang this song - To the well, we called out! Well that the princes dug, that the noble ones excavated, carved out with their staffs, a gift from the wilderness...

Rashi explains our verse-*B'eer Chafaruha Sarim*-Well that the princes dug- to mean-this is the well that Moshe and Aharon dug.

The **Arizal** suggested that the first letters of the first few words of our verse-*B'eer Chafaruha Sarim, Karuha*-spell out an acronym comprising the word **B'Choshech**-In darkness.

The **Yesod HaAvodah, the first Slonimer Rebbe z'ya**, explains the words of the *Arizal* as teaching us a very important and eternally relevant message. When a Jew experiences times of darkness, when we might be struggling to

find joy or fulfillment in our *Avodat Hashem*, then we should emulate *Moshe and Ahron* and "dig wells." In times of despair or in times when we feel disconnected or uninspired, we should dig deep and delve into and immerse ourselves in *limud Torah*, until we find and experience once again the life-giving water that is the *Torah HaKedoshah*.

Similarly, the **Ohr HaChaim HaKadosh zy'a**, taught that the song that was sung by the Jewish people at this time, was not solely about the water that they received as a *matana*-a gift in the desert, but rather was a song of praise for the greatest gift we received in the desert, the gift that would sustain us in all circumstances-the great gift of the *Torah HaKedoshah*.

Rebbe Nachman of Breslov zy'a, further explains that *Moshe and Ahron*, were two great leaders who were rooted in humility and concern for others, with a deep desire to give of their gifts to inspire others. They dug "wells", with their own hands, using their own equipment, to quench the thirst, to provide the waters of spiritual sustenance for the Jewish people.

In these very trying and challenging times, may each of us be blessed with the strength and fortitude to "dig wells," to find the spiritual sustenance we need through the proverbial waters of life inherent within the *Torah HaKedoshah*, and may we similarly share those waters with others, to bring the light of *Torah* to help navigate our passage through the proverbial desert, and overcome any pain and darkness. ■

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