



# SIMCHAT SHMUEL

BY RABBI SAM SHOR  
DIRECTOR, TORAH INITIATIVES,  
OU ISRAEL

*Parshat Emor* introduces us to one of the most mysterious practices in the *Beit Hamikdash*. The *Torah* instructs us that we are to prepare and bake the *lechem hapanim*- twelve loaves that are to be placed on each of the twelve drawers of the *Shulchan*, and are to remain there constantly, each week new bread is placed for *Shabbat*, simultaneous to the removal of the previous week's loaves. (*Vayikra* 24:5-8).

The ***Sefat Emet, the Gerer Rebbe zy'a*** explains that the significance of the *lechem hapanim* being constantly "*lifnei Hashem*" (before G-d) teaches that a Jew must feel constantly in Hashem's presence, and that every material aspect of life (like bread) can be elevated to Divine service. The *lechem Hapanim* are meant to remind each of us that indeed Hashem is present in every aspect of our lives, and to channel all our *kochot*, resources and capacities to divine service.

***Rav Chaim Vital zy'a*** wrote that the practice of the ***Arizal was*** to have twelve loaves of bread at every *Seudat Shabbat* to parallel the twelve loaves of the *lechem hapanim*.

The *Gemara* in *Chagiga*(26b) tells us that *Reish Lakish* explained that these twelve loaves were displayed before all those who came to the Temple for each of the three pilgrimage festivals, and that it was stated before them- 'See how much Hashem loves the Jewish People, the loaves are as fresh(from the previous week) now as we remove them, as they were when they were placed!' *'Rebbe Yehoshua ben Levi* stated that a great miracle occurred with the

*lechem hapanim* loaves, they stayed fresh from week to week, they remained as warm as they were when they were placed.'

***Reb Tzadok HaKohein of Lublin zy'a*** explains our *Gemara* as teaching a profound eternal message. The twelve loaves of the *lechem hapanim* represent the twelve tribes of the Jewish People. The miracle of the twelve loaves of the *lechem hapanim* staying fresh and warm demonstrated that Hashem's love and warmth is equally bestowed on each of the twelve tribes of the Jewish People. This miracle also is meant to teach us an eternal lesson, that if Hashem loves each and every Jewish tribe equally, then we too must strive to feel warmth and love for each and every member of *Klal Yisrael*.

May we merit to internalize these beautiful teachings- that just as *HaKadosh Baruch Hu* is ever present in each of our lives, and truly loves each and every member of *Klal Yisrael*, so too may we learn to see the beauty within one another, and to express our love for every single Jew. ■

DO YOU SUFFER FROM JOINT PAIN?

"Stem Cells"

An in-office mini-liposuction can provide the cells to treat this condition naturally



FOR INFO: [KNEE@SZMC.ORG.IL](mailto:KNEE@SZMC.ORG.IL)  
[WWW.DOCTORZINGER.COM/ARTHRITIS](http://WWW.DOCTORZINGER.COM/ARTHRITIS)