

## "And you shall command Bnei Yisrael that they take unto you pure olive oil beaten for the light." (27:20)

*Rashi* explains that the requirement of "*kasis*," beaten, only applies to the oil used for the *menorah*. Oil which is used for *menachos*, meal offerings, does not have this stipulation. *Horav S.Y. Zevin z.l.* explains this *halacha* homiletically. The oil used for lighting the *menorah* symbolizes the light of *Torah*, while the oil used for the meal offerings represents man's material sustenance. The *Torah* seems to admonish that "beaten" oil or "toiling" for the purpose of material sustenance is not a requirement. On the other hand, "*ameilus*", toil, is an essential pre-requisite for *Torah* study and spiritual development.

*Torah* study and an occupation both require the individual to exert effort. There is one disparity between them. The labor one performs in the pursuit of *Torah* study is an end in itself, while labor in an occupational endeavor is merely a vehicle for reaching a goal. Indeed, the need to work by the "sweat of one's brow" is the curse given to *Adam Ha' Rishon*. *Ameilus ba'Torah*, toil in *Torah* study, is an integral component of the *mitzvah*.

The *Talmud* in *Megillah 6b* states, "*If a man tells you I toiled (in Torah study) but I did not find (success), do not believe him.*" What is the meaning of "do not believe him"? Let us open a *sefer* and test him for proficiency! The *Kotzker Rebbe* implied that "do not believe him" refers to his lack of success, since one who toils in *Torah* study will indisputably be successful. *Torah study*, because it is an end in itself, benefits an individual even if his level of erudition is basic.

"*Beaten for light of the menorah*" - *Torah* study requires toil and exertion. On the other hand, "*not beaten for the meal offerings*" -struggle and labor for material sustenance is not essential, although it is permissible. If the latter goal can be achieved in an effortless manner, it is obviously desirable and preferable.