

# PURE COMMITMENT TO TORAH

*by Community Contributor*

"You shall command the Children of Israel that they shall bring to you *pure* olive oil, that is *pressed* to... *light a candle continuously*."

Why did the olive oil have to be *pressed*? Rashi says, "Only oil for lighting had to be pressed rather than ground because this oil had to be absolutely pure, without olive particles of sediment. Even though such impurities could be filtered out, later on, the sense of the posuk is that the oil had to be absolutely pure from the start..."

Similarly, Rav Yitzchak Berkowitz says, "When a person tries to mix spirituality (i.e. *Torah*) and materialism, he will find out that they constantly compete for his attention..." In addition, one who accustomed to pampering himself with all forms of pleasure will have a hard time forcing himself to invest the necessary effort to acquire true *Torah* knowledge.

What do a *light* and *candle* represent? Shlomo HaMelech says, "For a *mitzvah* is a *candle* and *Torah* is *light*."

*Tamid* means *continually*. Rashi says, "The *Menorah* had to remain lit only from evening until morning, as stated in the next verse, but it was continual in the sense that it was kindled every single day without exception, even on *Shabbos*." *Torah* isn't something that one only learns when it's convenient for him. For *Avos* tells us, "Do not say, 'When I have free time I will learn,' because you may not have free time." As the *Gemara* say, "When they escort a person to his final Heavenly judgment after his death, [the Heavenly tribunal] says to him, '...Did you set aside fixed times for *Torah* study daily?'" That's why the *Gemara* says, "*Torah* study requires constant strengthening."

Dedicated:

- In memory of *Eliyahu ben Mordechai, Mashah Tzivyah bas R' Shlomo Zalman, Altah Soshah Devorah bas Aryeh Leibush, Chaim ben Shmuel Efraim Zalman, Tuvyah Shlomo ben Naftali Tzvi HaKohein, Esther Perel bas R' Shlomo, Miriam bas Zelig Shaul, Menachem ben Shimon, Menachem ben Zev, Sarah bas HaRav Yisroel, Yosef ben Moshe HaLevi, Yisroel ben Yeshayah, Elisheva Basyah bas Yechiel Ephraim* and all the other departed souls of our nation.
- For the complete recovery of *Chayah Malka bas Bas-Sheva*, among the other sick ones of our nation.

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