



### Torah of Peace

25 Iyar, 5747-1987

Rosh Chodesh Sivan is exceptional. It was then, the Midrash relates, that God decided to give us the Torah immediately afterward.

The Midrash explains that in the travels preceding Rosh Chodesh Sivan, Jewish unity was not apparent; on occasion opinions and views clashed.

Yet from day to day, beginning when they left Egypt, they grew progressively more united. And regarding Rosh Chodesh Sivan the Torah states: "And he encamped" — in the singular. They rested, united together as one, as Rashi explains: "As one person, with one heart." Not only had they all come together, but they were also "with one heart," one vast heart overflowing with Jewish feeling.

Then God said: Since the Jews are together "with one heart," truly at peace, He would reveal before the whole world that they are ready; He would reveal then his decision to give them the Torah — which the verse describes: "Her ways are pleasant ways, and all her paths are peace."

The Torah's directives, accordingly, are filled with peace.

And the nation that expressed this attribute — although they were in exile, subjected to the authority and whims of various nations — resolutely became "one man with one heart."

This finds expression not only in one's spiritual life, but also in earthly material living. There, too, it is evident that all the aspects of Jewish life are directed toward the goal of unity.

Regarding this the greatest appreciation is reserved for the "foundation of the home," the woman, for the atmosphere at home depends upon her.

Her input is apparent in every detail, itself an indication that the home is directed by a true balabusta with a Jewish heart, who looks to the Torah to guide her actions. And this affects every member of the household, and even household articles — furniture, kitchen utensils or other items. All are directed to the one and only objective: to be appropriate for a home where God says, "I will dwell among them."

And providing a living model of a Jewish home prepares for and accelerates the actual visible Redemption — notwithstanding our exile among many nations and our knowledge that in "corners" of the world — and not just "corners," but immense areas — there reign the opposite of peace and righteousness and morality.



## פרשת במדבר

But in this woman's home, and though her leadership, she fully accomplishes: "Her ways are pleasant ways, and all her paths are peace" — a true peace, since it is based upon the peace of Torah, given by God — Who is called "Shalom," "Peace."

This is one of the foremost objectives that God wishes us to fulfill. "I will dwell among them" — when we live a peaceful integrated life.

