



לזכות
הילדה פייגה טאובה
לרגל יום הולדתה
כ"ד מנחם אב
יה"ר שתגדל לתורה לחופה
ולמעשים טובים מתוך
בריות נכונה ושפע בגו"ר
לנח"ר כ"ק אדמו"ר
והוריה הי"ו

15 Menachem-Av

Torah and Tzedaka

The Gemara tells us¹ that from 15 Menachem Av and on, one must increase in Torah study. Since the summer has drawn to an end and the nights are longer, they should be used for additional study.

If this is true of an ordinary year, all the more so does it apply to a *Shemitah* year which is already devoted to increasing Torah learning, with the extra time created by refraining from working the land.

Although when it comes to working the land, there is no *Shemitah* outside of Eretz Yisroel, the lesson of increasing Torah learning is universal.

(Additionally, there are some laws of *Shemitah* that do apply everywhere, like *shemitas kesafim*, relinquishing of debts.)

It is also important to increase tzedakah on 15 Av, and this too is emphasized in a *Shemitah* year: Tzedakah is a central part of *Shemitah* as we leave all produce

of the land to the poor.

In fact, this is the highest level of tzedakah since the poor don't suffer the humiliation of being on the receiving end. Rather they are getting their portion directly from Hashem, who declared all land public during the *Shemitah* year. ❶

(Adapted from the sicha of 15 Menachem-Av 5747)

1. Taanis 31a.