

LEARNING TO LOVE LEARNING

Background

The Malbim explains that Dovid HaMelech was describing the joy that he felt when he uncovered a part of Torah that had previously been hidden to him. He said it was greater than any other enjoyment in the world — so much so that any other joy was dwarfed by comparison.

ספר תהילים פרק קיט

קסב) שש אנכי על
אמרתך כמוצא שלל רב:

I am as elated over your words of Torah as if I have found a great treasure.

מלבי"ם על תהילים פרק
קיט פסוק קסב - חלק
באור הענין

קסב) שש - וכן לא יצויר
אצלי שמחה משום דבר
בעולם, כי שש אנכי על
אמרתך כמוצא שלל רב
- שהיא השמחה היותר
גדולה, וא"כ השמחה
הגדולה גם היא תבטל
השמחה הקטנה

Nothing else in world brings this experience of joy. It is the greatest euphoria possible, and so this great happiness annuls all other joys.

Questions

Assuming that Dovid HaMelech was a person like you and me, this description is difficult to understand. Granted, he enjoyed learning and certainly he felt a sense of satisfaction, but what he is describing here is the type of joy that one feels when his entire life changes — something very different than simply learning a new *pshat*.

Imagine a man with a great desire for wealth. For years, he wished for nothing other than being rich. One day, he opens the newspaper and sees that he won the Lotto — 100 million dollars! "I am rich! I am wealthy! I finally made it!" The sense of elation he feels at that moment is hard to imagine, his joy so sublime, his euphoria so great.

Dovid HaMelech is saying that he felt that type of intense joy every time he found a *chiddush* in learning. How is it possible that he experienced something that seems so far removed from our reality when he was a human, just as we are?