

Text:

Moses predicts the Jews' future misdeeds.

Do you behave thus towards G-d, O nation that is wearied and not wise?

[Devarim 32:6, translation according to
Ramban]

A nation that was *wearied* by ... the Torah, and did not have the *wisdom* to grasp that [Torah] is for their benefit always.

[Ramban]

Question:

Moses is criticizing the Jews' lack of enthusiasm for Torah. Hasn't he already prophesied that the Jews will turn to idolatry and reject G-d? Of what significance, by comparison, is study of Torah with less-than-ideal enthusiasm?

Answer:

The root of all the Jews' misdeeds was the failure to fully recognize Torah's value. Even when they were still studying Torah and keeping the Mitzvos, this lack of appreciation led to a diminishing of enthusiasm, and set in motion a downward spiral towards sin.

Message:

Torah study should engender joy and excitement; when it does, it penetrates the heart, elevates the soul and serves as a bulwark against sin. "This is the main fundamental of Torah study: to be glad, joyful, and to take pleasure in one's study –and then the words of Torah are absorbed into his bloodstream." - Eglei Tal