



CELIA ESSES HIGH SCHOOL

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Principal

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Dear Reader,

You are holding in your hands the fruits of years of devoted, careful labor by one of the precious souls of our generation. Rav Michael Shelomo Bar Ron is a dear friend, whose commitment to delving into the depths and the breadth of Torah is inspirational. Not content to keep his findings to himself, he is passionate about sharing his Torah like the waters of an overflowing spring, and for that, the world of Torah scholars and laymen owes him a great debt.

*Hasgal* speak of the concept of *Hokhmat HaKatanu* - the wisdom of the form of written Torah. The implication of this phrase is that while the written word of Torah is, as Ibn 'Ezra notes, a vessel that contains a jewel inside of it - that jewel being the profound meaning and lesson of the *parshá*, there is great wisdom even in the form of that vessel itself. It carries many layers of meaning and beauty. Sometimes, unfortunately, we gloss over that beauty, and we fail to notice the majesty and splendor of the vessel in our attempt to peek at the jewel. This book helps to illuminate the beauty of the vessel of Torah - showing how the structure of the words, themes, and *parshiyot* all come together to form an amazing cohesive whole, with symmetry and splendor. And this very structure itself can help to shine light on the meaning of the lessons of Torah, as Rav Bar Ron elucidates.

We pray daily for *HaShem* to make pleasant the words of Torah in our mouths. I believe that with a fuller appreciation of *Hokhmat HaKatanu*, there is an added dimension to that pleasantness. And for that we must express *bakamat ba-tov* to Rav Bar Ron. Of course, with that appreciation comes the bounty of the next line in the daily *berakhab* - that we, our children, and our children's children can then come to truly know *HaShem's* Name.

It takes a very special person to be able to teach so effectively, and Rav Bar Ron is indeed that type of person. A man of inestimable strength of character, extreme humility, rare clarity of thought, and beautiful creativity, Rav Bar Ron is gifted with *le-horat natan be-leba*. I wish you, dear reader, great joy as you travel with Rav Bar Ron on the odyssey of understanding a layer of *Hokhmat HaKatanu*, deepening your - and *Klal Yisrael's* - passionate preoccupation with the words of the Divine. May *HaShem* continue to bless Rav Bar Ron with many years of success toiling in the vineyards of the wisdom of Torah.

Sincerely yours,

Rabbi Saul Zucker