

Congregation

◆◆◆'"Beth Yosef'"◆◆◆

\*\*\* 2108 Ocean Parkway Brooklyn, N.Y. 11223 \*\*\*

**Rabbi Aharon Farhi**

*Parashat Vayishlah*

16<sup>th</sup> Kislev 5780

**Mr. Eliyahu Levy, President**

*Haftarat Hazon Ovadia*

December 14<sup>th</sup> 2019

*Maqam Saba*

Issue #871

*Candle Lighting 4:11pm \* Shekiah 4:29pm \* Minha Friday Night 4:15pm*

*Shaharit Shabbat 8:15am \* Minha Shabbat 3:50pm \* Shabbat Ends 5:11pm & Rabbenu Tam 5:41pm*

*Time for Talit 6:17am \* Seasonal Hour 55:00 \* Alot Hashahar 6:05am \* Netz Hachama 7:12am*

*Weekday Minha 4:15pm \* Earliest Time for Arbit 3:57pm \* Tzet Hacoachavim 5:06pm \* Chatzot 11:50*

*Latest Time for Morning Keriat Shema 8:50am \* Latest Time for Morning Amidah 9:45am*

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Please do not read this bulletin during Tefillah or Keriat Hatorah

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The Parasha begins with Yaakov Avinu returning to Israel after being away for twenty years. He will now come face to face with his brother Esav – two grown brothers, one wicked, one pure. What did Yaakov do in anticipation of this meeting? He prayed, prepared presents, and readied for war if necessary. Esav questioned Yaakov regarding the large presents, and Yaakov explained that they were intended in order to find favor in his eyes. Yaakov also explained that he had battled the ministering angel of Esav, who had confirmed that the blessings indeed went to Yaakov instead of Esav, and while the angel had wished to exact vengeance, Yaakov was nonetheless victorious in battle. This awakened fear in Esav: Yaakov had met his ministering angel and even overpowered him, while Esav himself didn't even merit such a revelation. Yaakov was now asking for peace, that's all. All Esav had to do was accept the presents and let go of the past. Esav had accepted the lentil soup in the past, surely now he could accept these presents from Yaakov today, which were much more worthwhile and valuable. But Esav was proud. He didn't need anyone – he claimed that he had plenty of his own. Nonetheless, his greed overpowered his pride and he accepted the presents. Yaakov, on the other hand, not only did he not want anything from Esav, he didn't even want to spend time with him. He was a man of truth, honor, and loyalty to Hashem. Esav did not understand why Yaakov didn't want to spend time travelling together now that they were at peace with one another. Yaakov instead told him to go ahead and he would meet up with him in Seir. Yaakov, we know, was a man of

truth – why didn't he keep his word and meet up with him in Seir? Yaakov meant that he would meet up with Esav in the future during the days of Mashiach. Judgement will then be performed and justice will be served for everything that the descendants of Esav had done wrong to the descendants of Yaakov – during the Inquisition, the Crusades, the Holocaust – everything, all wrongdoings, up until the present day in history. Hashem will judge and punish appropriately. Rabbenu Bacheya teaches us: we can learn quite a bit about the differences between Yaakov and Esav from our Parasha. Esav would limit his words, out of haughtiness, while Yaakov spoke properly. Esav never mentions Hashem throughout the entire Sefer Beresheet, while during this story alone Yaakov mentions Hashem numerous times. We must follow in the ways of Yaakov Avinu, and always mention and recognize Hashem in our days throughout our lives. Hashem helps us, guides us, blesses us, and we are His faithful servants. May Hashem watch over us, Amen.

### **Insights on the Parasha**

**1** – Yaakov turned back to retrieve small jugs that he had forgotten. *Rabi Elazar* explains: People usually do not value such small possessions. Yaakov, however, cared for all of his possessions, no matter the value, and taught his children, and all future generations, that your possessions must be cared for, as they save you from the need to steal and help you serve Hashem. It was this quality that the ministering angel of Esav wished to batter and disrupt. *The Arizal* explains that a man's possessions are destined to him from above, and one who cares

for his possessions is in truth honoring Hashem's appointment of them for his use. Yaakov returned so that he wouldn't belittle Hashem's decisions and appointments. The jugs, no matter how small or lacking in value they may have seemed to be, were given to him from heaven in order to serve Hashem, and that is not something to be taken lightly. He went back personally to retrieve them, for the Mitzvot performed personally are far greater than those done through an agent. (*Ben Yehoyada*)

2 – The Pasuk relates the disgrace and violation committed by Shechem against Dina. Rav Yitzchak Ben Avraham and Rav Pinchas were once discussing: What is the worst sin being committed? Rav Yitzchak said speaking in Shul during prayers, while Rav Pinchas said that it is worse when Jewish girls and women dress immodestly. Each strongly believed in their own opinion and tried their best to convince the other. They opened up a Chumash and read the chapter that discusses the story with Dina. Seemingly, this story pointed towards the view of Rav Pinchas, as Dina had ventured out into the streets. However, upon reading the Targum of Yonatan Ben Uziel, they were able to also learn like Rav Yitzchak, since the Targum clearly mentions during this story the wrongs committed in Shuls and Study Halls. Both were happy to be justified. (*Midrash Pinchas*)

### ***History in Brief***

For the triumphant holiday, Titus and his father Vespasian the Emperor of Rome celebrated with a large procession transporting a group of captives who numbered seven hundred young Jewish men of stature and beauty. Also transported with the procession were the Temple's holy vessels on display, including: the *Shulhan* or the golden table, the *Menorah* or the golden lamp, the golden *Tzitz* which the high priest wore on his forehead, the *Parochet* of the Holy of Holies, the Torah scroll, and much more. Then the news came that the head of the Jewish army was killed: Shimon Ben-Giora. They had dragged his body with a rope around his neck, slashed his flesh, and cut his head most shamefully before he died. Then they threw his

body to the dogs. Matityahu, who had helped Titus rise up on his campaign against his Jewish brothers, was brought by Titus to Rome and given great honor for his services. His name was changed to Josephus Flavius. He witnessed with his eyes the whole spectacle of the victory procession, and the slander of his brothers in this world. Vespasian commanded the building of a temple of magnificence, and he placed within it all the golden vessels of the Temple, the Torah scroll, and the Holy Parochet. He commanded him men to guard them – and they are in fact still being guarded in Rome to this day. Then the Emperor was concerned that perhaps the spirit of the remaining Jews would rise up to rebel against him. So, he sent his army minister on horseback to subdue the remaining three fortresses that were still left to the Jews: Machur, Hordion, and Masada.

### ***Health and Recovery***

You need to be careful with maintaining your sugar levels by instituting a diet. It is very important to portion your meals properly. It is better to eat extra smaller meals than to eat one or two large meals. Prolonged hunger followed by a big meal is actually harmful. There are other important suggestions for diabetics to follow: Regular examinations must be performed at an ophthalmologist office to check the eye health and vision, even if you do not feel that there is a problem with your vision, since from the time the disease starts effecting the patient, it can take up to five years for the patient to realize the issues on his own, and the sooner the disease is discovered, the better it can be treated. A level of blood sugar over 150 while fasting is considered a risk of eye injury. Besides the eyes, one of the most vulnerable organs in a diabetic is the kidney. The first sign of renal dysfunction is the rise of creatinine in the blood. To test for kidney disease, one can conduct a urine microalbumin test to detect very small levels of a blood protein (albumin) in your urine. A microalbumin test is used to detect early signs of kidney damage in people who are at risk of developing kidney disease. Diabetic patients are recommended to perform a micro-albumin test

once a year even though their creatinine index is within the norm. Another warning sign is the injury of the palm of the foot, which is a dangerous place from which trouble begins. One must closely observe the feet the most.

### **Mussar: *Tikkun of the Soul***

We must understand that our souls were created by Hashem, Creator and Master of everything, and that the soul is a portion of Hashem. The soul resides in, and is clothed by, the intelligence and understanding of man, grouped with the physical and mundane thoughts. When a person fulfills the Torah and purifies his mind, he is revealing his soul and releasing it from its binds to the mundane and physical. He has uncovered it from its wraps and he becomes a purified being. However, if a person thinks improperly and stores impurity within his mind, then he is suffocating the soul and embarrassing it. One must correct and complete his soul, not harm it. He is distancing himself from Hashem and his soul from its pure source. Suddenly, Hashem isn't helping him and the problems begin. He can't think straight or correctly as he has invited the impurity into his thoughts. He distances further and further away and everything seems black and depressing. Everything is Hashem's and He sustains all. If a horse is trotting, if a fruit is growing, if the sun is rising, and if technology is developing, everything is from Hashem. Impurity destroys your soul and distances you from Hashem, the source of all blessings. Have mercy on yourself and your soul and only act and think with purity, for fortunate will we be in this world and the next when we succeed in doing so. May Hashem merit us, Amen.

### **The Tenth Rishon LeSion:**

#### ***Rabbi Raphael Meyuhas 1700-1771***

Rabbi Raphael authored many Sefarim: Peri Haadamah on the Rambam, Mizbeah Adamah on Shulhan Aruch, Peri Haadamah on the Parashiyot of the Torah, Minhat Bikkurim on Shas, and Itur Habikkurim on the Gemara. On the 22<sup>nd</sup> day of Menahem Av in 1771, he was taken back to heaven. On his tombstone, as instructed, was written humbling descriptions,

such as: dust from the earth, merciful on the needy, assistant of the needy, the earth drank from his merits, he educated the needy, at the end of his days he lived on the earth, and all families of the earth were blessed by him. May his merits protect us, Amen.

### ***Story***

As the holy Gaon Rav Avraham Yehoshua saw in his dream that a side door opened in the Great Hall of the heavenly courtroom, dozens of angels entered carrying packages. They placed the packages in one corner of the hall. The rabbi sees this and wonders, "What is going on? What is this? Where did they get these packages? Is this the courtroom for souls who have finished their mission down on earth, or a warehouse for goods?" The spectacle surprisingly did not cease. The angels continued flowing in with packages like the waters of a stream. The packages, all different in size from one another, accumulated to the point that they took up all available space in the court. If another box were to be brought, it would need to be left outside. Finally, with a great deal of power, he conquered his immense wonder and approached one of the angels, and asked: "Isn't this the heavenly courtroom?" "Yes indeed" was the reply of the hurried angel who continued on his way. Then the rabbi asked: "Why then are you making this holy and venerable place into a storage unit for parcels, filling the courtroom with meaningless packages?" The angel simply replied: "All these parcels are yours!" The rabbi replied in shock, "I've only just arrived here from the world below, how can they possibly be mine?" The angel explained: "These are filled with the myriads of pages of Torah, Talmud, commentary, etc. that you have learned and taught throughout your life! In a little while, the judges of the heavenly court will come in and ask you the first question from a series of questions that each soul is asked: "Have you learned Torah?" But you won't have to answer even a single word, just point to the masses of sacks, wherein lies thousands of Torah pages learned and taught during your lifetime. The court will prove that you have brought with you

very valuable goods that are most desired by the merchants up here. They will quickly close your case and you will receive the immense reward for your perseverance, for you who have not ceased from studying the teachings of Hashem day and night!" This is what the angel replied. The rabbi in his dream was very happy. He awaited the entry of the judges who would come in and he would quickly be dismissed from judgment.

### **Two Halachot: Posek Rav Mordechai Eliyahu**

**1** – The optimal time to pray Shaharit Amidah is at Netz. If one prayed after Alot Hashahar, then he has at least fulfilled his obligation. If one wakes up late, even on purpose, he can still pray until Chatzot. However, if one purposely does not pray, after Chatzot he cannot make it up. If he mistakenly did not pray, then he can make up Shaharit after Chatzot by praying Minha twice.

**2** – Upon reciting Tehilot La'El Elyon, one stands up and prepares to begin Shaharit Amidah. He should stand up when saying the word Tehilot and take three steps back, and then upon reciting Gaal Yisrael he takes three steps forward, drawing closer to the king, and immediately begins the Amidah without interruption or hesitation. There is no Kaddish, no Kedushah, and no Amen recited at that point. It is best to recite the words Gaal Yisrael with the Hazzan. However, regarding Arbit before Amidah one may answer Kaddish, Kedushah, and Barechu, but not Amen for Berachot.

### **Laws: Shabbat**

**1** – One may not move a tool or utensil whose purpose of use is prohibited during Shabbat, if he is moving it only to protect it, and not to use it for a permitted usage or to move it in order to vacate its occupied space, i.e. to move bicycles that are in the yard for fear that they will be stolen, they may not be moved during Shabbat.

**2** – Here is a list of such items that cannot be moved during Shabbat if not for a permitted usage or to move it in order to vacate its occupied space: Asbestos - Clips - Purse - Gas - Matches - Washing Materials - Insecticide - Stamps - Metal Menorah - Stove - Baking Tools - Meat Trimming Tools - Kneading Tools - Tools for Sale - Electric Pads - Seal Pads - Writing boards - Screwdriver - Brush for Hats, Clothes, and Shoes - Coloring or Painting

Brush - Floor Scrub Brush - Hard Brush for Hair Combing - Hard Toothbrush - Scraper – and Rake. We will write more items next week Be'ezrat Hashem.

### **Sponsors**

\*\*\* **Rabbi Henry Lieber, his wife Pessy, and their children.** Blessings, health, longevity, and success for the entire family, Amen. \*\*\* **Dr. Nissim Bassoul, his wife Becky, and their children.** Blessings and success for the entire family, Amen. \*\*\* **Mr. Charlie Katan, his wife Margalit, and their children.** Blessings and success for the entire family, Leilui Nishmat his father **Avraham Ben Salma a"h**, Amen. \*\*\* **Mrs. Berta Zirdok and her children Rafi, Joey, Vivian, and July.** Blessings and success for the entire family, Leilui Nishmat their father **Daniel Ben Aysah a"h**, Amen. \*\*\* **Mrs. Leah Salame and her children: Faraj, Jack, Miriam, and Clemence.** Blessings and success for the entire family, Leilui Nishmat their father **Yitzhak Ben Miriam a"h**, Amen. \*\*\* **The Shakalo family.** Blessings and success for the entire family, Leilui Nishmat their mother **Touni Mazal Bat Rachel a"h**, Amen. \*\*\* **The Hafif Family.** Blessings and success for the entire family, Leilui Nishmat their mother **Rachel Bat Zakie a"h**, Amen. \*\*\* **The Nakab Family.** Blessings and success for the entire family, Leilui Nishmat their father **Jamil Ben Aysah a"h**, Amen. \*\*\* **Mrs. Celia Jajati and her children.** Blessings and success for the entire family, Leilui Nishmat their father **Hamda Leon Ben Jamila a"h**, Amen. \*\*\* **Mrs. Yaffa, her husband Robert Sibton, and their children.** Blessings and success for the entire family, Mazal Tov to **Yosef and Suzette, and Mr. Hoter Ishay and his wife, on the marriage of Maggie and Danny Cohen, Mabrouk, Amen.** \*\*\* **Mr. Yehuda Bareket, his wife Leah, and their children.** Blessings, Refuah Shelemah, and success for the entire family, Mazal Tov to the bride and groom **Moshe and Nina, Mabrouk, Amen.**

*This week sponsorship total \$475.*

*Weekly expenditures total \$1300.*

*Tizku L'Mitzvot, Amen!*

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