

Congregation

◆◆◆'"Beth Yosef'"◆◆◆

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

Rabbi Aharon Farhi

Parashat Yitro

20th Shevat 5780

Maqam Husseni

Issue #879

Mr. Eliyahu Levy, President

Haftarat Bishnat Mot

February 15th 2020

*Candle Lighting 5:11pm * Shekiah 5:29pm * Minha Friday Night 5:20pm*

*Shaharit Shabbat 8:15am * Minha Shabbat 4:55pm * Shabbat Ends 6:12pm & Rabbenu Tam 6:42pm*

*Time for Talit 5:49am * Seasonal Hour 6:00 * Alot Hashahar 5:37am * Netz Hachama 6:51am*

*Weekday Minha 5:20pm * Earliest Time for Arbit 4:49pm * Tzet Hacoachavim 6:07pm * Chatzot 12:09*

*Latest Time for Morning Keriat Shema 8:44am * Latest Time for Morning Amidah 9:46am*

Shovevim Fasting: Thursday February 13th fast starts 5:38am and ends 5:50pm

Monday February 17th fast starts 5:35am and ends 5:55pm

Please do not read this bulletin during Tefillah or Keriat Hatorah

Parashat Yitro is a very powerful Parasha, as it includes Matan Torah at Har Sinai, with the revelation of the Shechinah to all of Bnei Yisrael. This is the second time that the nation merited to reach the level of prophecy. The first time was at the splitting of the Yam Suf, at which time even the children recognized the greatness of Hashem and declared "This is my Hashem and I will glorify". Our Sages teach us: even the maidservants by the Yam Suf witnessed more than even Yechezkel Ben Buzi HaCohen saw in his time. We will now discuss two questions on the Parasha: **1-** Why was it necessary for Hashem to reveal the holy Shechinah to all of Bnei Yisrael collectively at once? Wouldn't it have been enough if Moshe just brought down the Torah for Bnei Yisrael at Har Sinai, as they had already witnessed the revelation of the Shechinah at the Yam Suf? Didn't they already testify at the Yam Suf that they trusted in Hashem and in His servant Moshe? **2-** Why is this powerful Parasha named after a non-Jew, Yitro, the father-in-law of Moshe? Why is the whole Parasha just called Yitro, when it encompasses so much more? Let's answer the two questions in order: **1-** Of course at Har Sinai Bnei Yisrael believed in Hashem and trusted in Moshe as His faithful servant, as the messenger of Hashem who performed great miracles in Egypt and at the Yam Suf. However, maybe their belief in Moshe would not extend to all 613 Mitzvot they were about to be commanded to fulfill their entire lives throughout all future generation for thousands of years to come! This is why Hashem

revealed the holy Shechinah once again to Bnei Yisrael at Har Sinai. Once they heard commandments from Hashem directly, they told Moshe to teach them the entire Torah himself. Moshe was then able to lead them with authority throughout the forty years of traveling through the desert, as the messenger and trusted servant of Hashem. When Hashem originally instructed Moshe at the burning bush, this is what He meant by 'a sign for Bnei Yisrael to know that Moshe was His messenger', not just to perform the miracles in Egypt, but rather to be the undisputed leader at Har Sinai, to command them for all future generations. **2-** To answer the second question: Why are we linking the story of Yitro with Matan Torah? To portray the difference between faith that results from miracles and wonders, and faith that results from Hashem's revelation of His Shechinah. The miracles were not performed by Moshe in order to encourage the nation to have faith, because faith produced from miracles is not complete faith. One is not supposed to rely on miracles, which is not real faith. The proof? Yitro. Yitro joined the nation's camp temporarily, having developed faith resulting from miracles and wonders: the splitting of the sea, the exodus from Egypt, the war with Amalek, etc. His faith was based on miracles, something we are not supposed to rely upon, and therefore his faith was weak. When Moshe asked Yitro to join them in their travels, Yitro declined, and advised that he would instead be returning to his hometown and birthplace. We should learn from Yitro how to develop the correct type of faith in

Hashem, not based on miracles, but real strong faith that is meaningful and long-lasting in Hashem. May Hashem watch over us, Amen.

Insights on the Parasha

1 – The 10th Commandment is “*You shall not covet*”. The Gaon *Bet Halevi* asks: How does one stop himself from feelings of desire for something that his friend possesses? In order to explain how to distance from this desire, let us focus on the following parable: A certain man wishes to own a prize horse that would catch the attention of everyone he passed while riding it. One day while he was outside of the city, he suddenly saw his dream horse appear on the other side of the river, at the entrance of the forest. He quickly began running towards the horse in order to catch it and fulfill his dream before it ran back into the wild. Suddenly, he slipped on some icy snow and flailed his arms wildly trying to save himself from a dangerous fall. For that moment, while he was falling and afraid of incurring a possible injury, his dream of owning the prize horse was forgotten from his heart. The same is true, says the *Bet Halevi*, with our situation. The Torah commands us not to covet the property and possession of another and warns that those who do will be punished by falling to Gehinam for transgressing the Torah’s commandment. If one truly understands these inevitable consequences, then how could one allow himself to feel desire for that which the Torah forbids – at the price of being punished in Gehinam?

History in Brief

In the years following the destruction of the *Bet Hamikdash*, the Romans ruled over Israel. Many of the rebels who opposed the rule of Rome fled to Alexandria, Egypt, where the people were at ease to rise up and cast off the burden of the Romans. The rebels went out to the public and engaged with the people, giving them advice, tempting the crowd to revolt as well. When the Egyptians learned of their activity, they conspired against the wickedness that the rebels wished to bring upon them and their children by challenging the Romans, and so they captured about six hundred, while the rest fled. They tortured them with all kinds of torments, and cut their flesh apart. When the Emperor heard of this, he summoned *Lupus* his

Commissioner in Alexandria, to destroy the Temple, the “*House of Chonio*”, which was in Egypt. Who serviced the Temple of Chonio? At the time of the death of *Shimon the Tzaddik*, who was the *Cohen Gadol*, he instructed his *Cohanim* brothers: *Chonio* my son will take over instead of me. His brother *Shimi* was jealous of him, since he was two and a half years older. He therefore secretly instructed him: Come and I will teach you the order of the service, *Seder Avodah*. He then dressed him in woman’s clothing and stood him by the *Mizbeah*. He gathered the *Cohanim* and told them, “See what your brother *Chonio* wears? He vowed to his wife, that day that I would serve as high priest, I will wear your clothes. Because the priests sought to kill him, he fled to Egypt, and built a *Mizbeah* and a Temple there, called *Mikdash Bet Chonio*.”

Mussar: Obligation of Man

The purpose of creation is for man to fulfill Hashem’s commandments. Without purpose, life is worthless. Without *Mitzvot*, man is just like an animal. We recite in prayers that man is permitted over animal ‘*Ayin*’, meaning that man has the ability to say ‘*no*’ – *I do not wish to act in such a manner*. Man has the choice to decide between good and bad. One who does not properly take advantage of this choice is therefore categorized as an animal. Also, man is equipped with ‘*Ayin*’ – the three Hebrew letters represent: *Amira* (*speech*) *Yedia* (*understanding*) and *Netina*, which are three characteristics only given to man and not to animals. Once man realizes his purpose, he must fulfill it truthfully with joy and happiness. One who realizes his goals and works hard to achieve them has great reason to rejoice and celebrate. Such happiness is the core of life and the foundation for success. Without happiness, holiness and even the understanding of Torah cannot enter man. Even when man is suffering painfully, he is obligated to recognize the good in his life and believe with great trust in Hashem that everything done is for the best and will occur in the proper place and time.

Health and Recovery

Our kid’s schedules are fuller than ever! Young minds and bodies need solid nutrition to keep up with the flurry of activity. In the morning rush,

breakfast is an important meal that is often missed. Breakfast is literally *breaking* an overnight *fast*. Starting the day with a balanced meal can make a difference in health and school performance. Studies show that kids who eat breakfast do better in school, have better concentration, perform better on standardized tests, have fewer behavior problems and are more energetic. Kids who eat breakfast are also more likely to maintain a healthy weight. A balanced breakfast includes the essentials: Help your kids get the morning nutrition they need by offering a variety of wholesome foods, providing a combination of healthy carbohydrates and protein. Carbohydrates are the preferred energy source for the brain. They're digested quickly and jump-start thinking and learning. Look for whole grains, milk, fruits and vegetables. You can identify whole grain products by finding "whole wheat" or "whole grain" as the first ingredient. Protein helps kids maintain the level of energy and fullness they need to get them through the morning. It is found in meat, beans, eggs, milk, yogurt and cheese. Be sure to power up your breakfast with this important nutrient! How your child eats today will have a striking impact on his or her health throughout adolescence and adulthood. Consuming nutritious foods helps children and teens grow, develop, do well academically and feel good about themselves. Good nutrition also helps prevent child and teen issues such as eating disorders, obesity, dental cavities and iron-deficiency anemia. According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention 25 percent of all children aged 2 to 18 years now meet the criteria for being overweight. Overweight and obese children are at greater risk for major health issues such as Type 2 diabetes, high blood pressure, joint pain, high cholesterol and cardiovascular disease. Teaching your child good nutrition habits from a young age can decrease the likelihood he will become overweight. Choosing nutrient-dense foods such as fresh fruit and vegetables over empty-calorie foods such as cookies and sodas can help prevent childhood obesity and provide your child a much higher quality of life. Children require a variety of nutrient-dense foods such as fresh fruits, vegetables, whole grains, meat, fish and adequate calories in order to grow and develop properly. It's crucial that your child is consuming the essential

nutrients she needs to grow. Calcium is of particular importance for children. An adequate calcium intake promotes optimal bone density which will assist teen growth and reduce the risk of bone loss in later life. The way children eat influences their growth and health during childhood, during adolescence and for the rest of their lives.

Rishon LeSion:

Rabbi Yom Tov Algazi 1727-1802

After the Goyim started a fire that burnt down the homes of many Jews in the courtyard, as well as the Shul along with forty Sifre Torah, the Chassidim and their families were left with only the clothing they were wearing. They were heartbroken and their spirit was crushed. Many left and returned to their countries. Some went to Egypt. Yet, there were a few that remained in Israel to figure out what to do next. They still owed a sizable debt to the landowner. Their future had been bright, following Rav Yehuda the Chassid to Jerusalem along with many others. They were going to build a grand community together, but now the future looked bleak and unpromising. The residents of Jerusalem helped the Turkish immigrants as best as they could, but it was barely enough. At these times, Rabbi Yom Tov Algazi lived in Jerusalem. The Turkish immigrants may have been facing hard times, but our nation is never alone. European Jewry began sending funding to Israel in order to support those in need.

Story: *Daf Yomi*

One of the first Gedolim who started learning Daf Yomi was the Gerrer Rebbe the Imre Emet, who would mark his calendar precisely and offer insights and commentary on the Daf during his Torah lectures, and quote Chazal during his Shabbat speeches. It is told, that on the first night of Rosh Hashanah, when the first Daf of Berachot was to be learned for the first ever cycle of Daf Yomi, the Rebbe asked his Gabbai for a Masechet Berachot so that he could begin learning Daf Yomi. Word spread quickly throughout the town and within moments there was no spare Gemara Berachot to be found in the city. During the Siyum of Masechet Yebamot, in the first cycle of Daf Yomi, Rabbi Meir Shapiro quoted the last Beraita of the Masechet: Rabi Gamliel was once traveling by boat and he happened to pass by a boat that

floated in ruins. He was pained to see that Rabi Akiva had been on that boat. When he reached the shore, Rabi Akiva informed him that he had been able to grab onto a loose 'Daf', a wooden board, from the boat and he was able to rescue himself to shore. Rabbi Meir Shapiro then compared our generation to the boat that lay in ruins. How can we be saved from drowning in the oceans of this world? We too must hold onto the 'Daf' – the Daf Yomi – in order to rescue ourselves from the spiritual abyss of this world.

Two Halachot: Posek Rav Mordechai Eliyahu

1 – One who needs to use the bathroom is not allowed to pray until he relieves himself. However, if he began praying the Amidah before feeling the need, he should try to delay and complete the Amidah without interruption. If he cannot wait, he can quietly walk away from the Amidah, relieve himself, and then return to continue praying from where he paused.

2 – One cannot sit within a 4 Amot radius (2 meters) of someone who is praying the Amidah. If one was already sitting and learning or praying before the other began praying the Amidah, then he does not need to move away or stand up, because the other person came within his boundaries. If one is strict and moves away he will be blessed, provided he was sitting in front of the one praying the Amidah, however if he was sitting in back or to the side before the other began the Amidah, he doesn't need to be strict and move.

Laws: Shabbat

1 – Someone who spends extra for Shabbat will be blessed and protected.

2 – Someone who finds something Muktzeh in his pocket during Shabbat, if he is home, he should remove the garment, but if he is in the street, he can first walk over to a more secluded area and then either shake it out of his pocket or take off his garment and leave it there if possible, i.e. a jacket.

3 – When Noah sent the dove from the ark the second time, and the dove found a place to rest, that day was Shabbat. We merit that during Shabbat those being punished in Gehinam can rest from their punishments and leave for the duration of Shabbat.

4 – One who observes Shabbat properly is forgiven for his sins.

5 – Garbage or something emitting a rancid smell may be taken and removed, as long as it is not taken out to the public domain when it is removed from the private domain.

Sponsors

*** **Mr. Mayer Wahba, his wife Pauline, and their children.** Blessings and success for the entire family, Amen. *** **Mr. Hillel Edmon Haber, his wife Roula, their parents, and their children.** Blessings and success for the entire family, Leilui Nishmat his grandfather **Yitzhak Ben Frieda a"h**, Amen. *** **The blessed siblings: Ezra, Sammy, Eli, and their sisters of the Guindi Family.** Blessings and success for the entire family, Leilui Nishmat their mother **Frieda Bat Jamila a"h**, Amen. *** **Blessed siblings: Eddie, Habib, Victor, and their sisters, of the Kassab HaCohen Family.** Blessings and success for the entire family, Leilui Nishmat their mother **Emily Bat Mazal a"h**, Amen. *** **Mr. Abboud Avraham, his wife Sabah, and their children: Naim, Yosef, Moshe, and Yonatan.** Blessings and success for the entire family, Leilui Nishmat their son who passed away at a young age **David Ben Sabah a"h**, Amen. *** **Mrs. Sely Jajati and her children.** Blessings and success for the entire family, Leilui Nishmat their father **Yehuda Leon Ben Jamila 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. *** **The Shakalo family.** Blessings and success for the entire family, Leilui Nishmat their mother **Touni Mazal Bat Rachel a"h**, Amen. *** **Mr. Eli Levy, his wife Becky, and their children.** Blessings, health, and success for the entire family, Amen. *** **The blessed siblings: Henry and Isaac Sarway, their wives, and their children.** Blessings and success for the entire family, Leilui Nishmat their father **Shama Ben Badia a"h**, and Leilui Nishmat **Rachel Bat Adele a"h**, Amen. *** **Cell Phone repairs**, cheap and quick, contact Naim Bareket: 359 Coney Island Ave, Brooklyn, NY 11223 (347) 495 – 4653.

This week sponsorship total \$700.

Weekly expenditures total \$1300.

Tizku L'Mitzvot, Amen!

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