

Congregation

◆◆◆"Beth Yosef"◆◆◆

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

Rabbi Aharon Farhi

Parashat Va'era

28th Tevet 5780

Maqam Nawa

Issue #876

Mr. Eliyahu Levy, President

Haftarat Ko Amar

January 25th 2020

*Candle Lighting 4:45pm * Shekiah 5:03pm * Minha Friday Night 4:50pm*

*Shaharit Shabbat 8:15am * Minha Shabbat 4:25pm * Shabbat Ends 5:46pm & Rabbenu Tam 6:16pm*

*Time for Talit 6:12am * Seasonal Hour 59:00 * Alot Hashahar 6:00am * Netz Hachama 7:11am*

*Weekday Minha 4:55pm * Earliest Time for Arbit 4:27pm * Tzet Hacoachavim 5:41pm * Chatzot 12:08*

*Latest Time for Morning Keriat Shema 8:57am * Latest Time for Morning Amidah 9:56am*

Shovevim Fasting: Thursday January 23rd fast starts 6:02am and ends 5:30pm

Monday January 27th fast starts 5:58am and ends 5:35pm

Monday January 27th will be Rosh Hodesh Shevat

Please do not read this bulletin during Tefillah or Keriat Hatorah

The Pasuk says: *Hashem* (written "Elokim" – *Midat HaDin*) spoke to Moshe and said that He is *Hashem* (written "Havaya" – *Midat HaRahamim*). Why does the Pasuk begin with judgment and end with mercy? Let us explain with a story: There was once a young man who worked in a high-tech company and was compensated with a reasonable salary. However, he had to endure less reasonable project expectations, as well as a completely unbearable boss, reflected in the work pressure, layoff threats, and constant profanity compliments of the boss himself. One evening, his colleagues made plans for a quick vacation, a weekend trip up north. Everyone requested time-off and was approved except this individual who, in his estimation, didn't even ask because he didn't think he'd get approval for some time-off from his tough boss. Nonetheless, due to persuasion and peer pressure, he took the trip with them anyway without permission. The next day, when the boss called to find out where the worker was that day, asking why he didn't come to work, immediately the worker lied and said that he was in the hospital with a terrible backache and couldn't work due to the pain. The boss, after a moment of silence, wished him a quick recovery, and hung up. The worker enjoyed his well-earned vacation, happy to be far away for his cruel boss, but the surprise came when he returned to work. The tough boss asked for a release letter from the hospital. Until such a document could corroborate his story of absence, he couldn't come back to work. The worker sat idle in his house all week, and after much thought he came to the conclusion that he was being punished from heaven for his sin. So, he

decided that after Shabbat he would go to the boss, tell him the truth, and ask for his forgiveness. Surely Hashem would help him return to work! He prayed, recited Tehillim, donated to charity, and participated in Torah study, all in the hope of his success through heavenly assistance. He was sure that now Hashem would help him and soften the heart of his boss, who would allow him to return to work. He quickly learned that not only did this plan fail, but his brazen admittance and sheer nerve actually infuriated his boss who quickly decided to permanently fire him! He lifted his eyes to heaven and asked Hashem, "Why? What have I done to not be answered?" He got his answer on the following Tuesday, when he received a much better job offer, available only due to his recent unemployment status. Today, he thanks Hashem for not answering his prayer regarding his first job, or more accurately, that Hashem really did hear his prayer, his request for help and guidance, and therefore did not return him to the same boss, in order to enable him to do better work, under more favorable conditions and terms, in a more pleasant environment. It turns out that everything really happens for the best! We can learn this great lesson from our Parasha: It would seem that when Moshe listened to Hashem and went to Pharaoh as instructed, the situation deteriorated instead of improving. The Pasuk begins with *Midat HaDin*, in reference to the way the current situation could seem, void of mercy and kindness. However, the Pasuk ends off with *Midat HaRahamim*, as *in truth* Hashem is orchestrating a master plan that will unfold perfectly and successfully in due course, all with our best interests considered. May Hashem

watch over us, Amen.

Insights on the Parasha

1 – The Pasuk mentions the births of Aharon and Moshe. They were born just like any other person of flesh and blood, with a mother and father, and yet they became the leaders and prophets of the Jewish nation, affecting all future generations through their actions. We testify to Aharon's outstanding piety in pursuing peace and drawing others closer to Torah, and Moshe's unmatched humility, greater than any other man that lived. Their deeds and accomplishments reached the heavens, but we must understand that they did not come from heaven like angels. They were born in this world the same way regular people are born. We can learn from here that everyone has immense potential to become truly great, to even reach the holy levels of Moshe and Aharon. (*Sefer HaMorah VahaTalmud*)

History in Brief

In 73 CE, the Roman governor, Lucius Flavius Silva, headed the Roman legion and laid siege to Masada, with an army of about fifteen thousand men. He forced the Jewish captives to bring water for his soldiers to drink in the dry desert, as there were no wells anywhere near the siege, and commanded them to bring bread from afar. The Roman legion surrounded Masada, built a circumvallation wall and then a siege ramp against the western face of the plateau. The besiegers were quite a number, but none at heart wished to emerge and provoke war. Silva continued to work his men hard, building fifty cubits wide and fifty cubits tall, and also building a tall tower whose sixty-one cubits was all iron-plated. With their weapons, their slingshots, and their ballistics, they expelled those standing on the wall, and didn't let up. The 375-foot-high assault ramp consisted mostly of a natural spur of bedrock. The ramp was complete in the spring of 73, after probably two to three months of siege, allowing the Romans to finally breach the wall of the fortress with a battering ram. A giant siege tower with a battering ram was constructed and moved laboriously up the completed ramp. They equipped the broad, strong, iron pillar, and worked their way battering through the wall continually, until Hashem allowed them to break through on the 14th of the month of Nissan, which is the time of the Passover sacrifice.

Inside, the Romans found the residents of the tower, who at that time numbered 960.

Health and Recovery

Diabetics tend to develop hypertension. Diabetes and hypertension are diseases that usually go together. When accompanied by an increase in blood lipid levels, the situation presents a dangerous combination. The accumulated lipids on the artery walls cause the heart to work harder, which over time weakens the heart muscles, as it stresses to increase blood pressure in order to supply enough blood to all the organs throughout the body, especially the vital organs. When partially clogged artery walls reduce blood supply, the effect can be a stroke, kidney disease, blood vessel blockage in the legs, and eye disease. The risk of heart disease is many times greater, especially when hypertension is associated with smoking, overweight or obesity, high-cholesterol, and diabetes. Such diseases have a lot in common: they are not accompanied with any early warning signs, they are not painful, and in fact you do not feel them coming or happening at all. When these diseases damage the blood vessels, they will then cause damage to the body's organs. At the onset of these diseases, it is possible for them to be balanced without medication, if you respond quickly with the proper nutrition, exercise, and weight-loss plan. Neglecting hypertension can be fatal to one's life.

Mussar: Love for Hashem

There is nothing greater than loving Hashem! All services of Hashem sprout forth from this attribute. There is no comparison between a person who serves Hashem with love and a person who serves Hashem with fear. Loving Hashem is one of the 613 Mitzvot that one is able to fulfill at any given moment. One can fulfill this Mitzvah even with just his thoughts. Everyone is constantly thinking about something – one should just substitute his usual thoughts with some thoughts of love for Hashem, and he will have fulfilled a great Mitzvah! Love Hashem and His great Torah, which is the source and the wellspring of life, from which you can draw much merit. If someone gives you a gift, do you not automatically begin to like them? If they completely support you and grant you all of your needs, do you not begin to love

them? If they then save your life and prevent, or even cure you, from terrible sicknesses, do you not feel great love towards that person? How much more must we love Hashem who grants us everything, whether things appear to be coming from heaven or from another person – everything in fact really always comes from Hashem! For every breath we take we must thank Hashem and feel great love towards Him. Do not close off your heart from this truth! Hashem continuously grants us life and countless blessings of goodness, even while we are sinning, and then even allows us the time to repent and have remorse over our wrongdoings. One can begin counting the great favors Hashem performs for us starting even from the time he was in his mother's womb, from before he was even born! There are countless favors Hashem does for us each and every moment of which most we are completely unaware, but unfortunately we do not even think enough about the ones we actually do know about. We must strengthen our love for Hashem and our bond with Him, fulfill His Mitzvot, and toil greatly in the depths of His holy Torah. May Hashem merit us, Amen.

Rishon LeSion:

Rabbi Yom Tov Algazi 1727-1802

In 1750, when Rabbi Yehuda the Chassid decided to leave his country and his city, and move to the Holy Land of Israel, hundreds of his students and their families throughout Europe decided to join him. All were devout learners of Torah and performers of Mitzvot, heads of Yeshivot and leaders of others. Each took their family and set off on the road. In Hungary, several hundred more people joined this convoy making its way to Israel, and together about one thousand five hundred people marched bravely to the land of our fathers. This great journey left its mark all over Europe. At every stop, the people of that city came out to greet them, as many were awakened to perform Teshuvah in response to seeing so many people giving up everything in order to travel to Israel and fulfill Mitzvot. They were tested with trial after trial on the way to the land of their ancestors, as five hundred people were buried during the long journey, victims of hard traveling. But the troubles did not cease, as they knew for sure that the Land of Israel could only be acquired through agony. As they stood at the gates of Jerusalem, they hoped to

breathe a sigh of relief, however supreme providence did not allow them to do so. For a very large sum they purchased a large courtyard from the Gentiles, a courtyard which included a large house that soon became a central synagogue for immigrants, in the year 1750. Yet, only three days later, after their very short stay in Israel, three days which were hardly enough to organize anything serious, abruptly the bitter news fell upon them: their admired rabbi and leader, the first and foremost of their group, Rabbi Yehuda the Chassid, was taken from this world back up to the Yeshiva in heaven. In silence and in great pain, the immigrants mourned over the bed of Rabbi Yehuda the Chassid, who suddenly passed away from them in an instant. During the difficult days that followed, the money they brought with them from Europe quickly depleted. Whatever money they had left was needed to spend on the courtyard they have bought and at least provide bread for the young children.

Story

Rabbi Avraham, in his dream, witnessed another angel enter the courtroom, seemingly an angel of defense, who raised his voice and cried out: "How can it be that here in the world of truth, one prosecuting angel can dare to disdain and disavow the teachings of Rabbi Avraham? Every spiritual success comes with great difficulty. Do we not live in the times of Mashiach?! Much was taught by our Sages about the difficulties and challenges during this exact time period, and we should therefore rejoice here in heaven for every Pasuk recited, and every word of Torah that Jews endeavor to say and read, for every chapter of Tehillim and every prayer, every page of Gemara and every Mishnah that is learned! I demand that all pages return here at once!" In a great wonder, at that moment the hall was suddenly once again filled with dozens of restless, active angels, bearing on their shoulders packages and loads of Rabbi Avraham's Torah learning! Then he suddenly woke up, in his house, on his bed, and realized it was all a dream. The rabbi was indeed alive and well, completely healthy. A few days after the dream, Rabbi Avraham packed his belongings and, without considering the burden of his aged years, embarked on a journey among the righteous of the land. Perhaps he would be able to meet a Hacham who can rescue him from the

judgment he was facing in heaven, thinking that the Hacham must be alive in this world. During his travels he met many righteous Hachamim, but he did not recognize any of them from his dream, until he arrived at the Bet Midrash of Rabbi Yitzchak Isaac of Zidichov, who he immediately recognized as his defendant in the world of truth! As he looked briefly at his holy face, he collapsed in a faint and returned his soul to heaven.

Two Halachot: Posek Rav Mordechai Eliyahu

1 – When praying the Amidah, one should not stand in front of a painting or image, even with your eyes closed. Therefore, do not place pictures of Rabbanim on the shul walls or on the Siddur. Also, one may not pray on a shaky or unstable object, such as on a chair or on a pile of pillows, so that the instability doesn't cause bother and interrupt your concentration of the Amidah. Also, do not pray in an open field or desert area, rather try to at least stand near a fence or tree.

2 – When reciting the silent Amidah, one should always try his best not to burp or yawn. However, if unavoidable, one should at least place his hand over his mouth so that others won't see it open.

Laws: Shabbat

1 – The following items are Muktzeh during Shabbat due to its intrinsic value: stones, soup powder, baking powder, uncooked rice, noodles, a four-cornered garment Tzitzit, wet clothes, batteries, animals, gypsum, grease, date seeds, uncooked fish, checks, banknotes, glass broken into fragments in which there's no danger, a window that is out of its place, vegetables you can't eat without cooking, monetary coins, stickers, foods that can't be eaten without cooking, a wet rag, a nail, and Matzah from which Challah was not separated.

Sponsors

*** **Mr. Yehoshua Khoudari, his wife Susan, and their children.** Blessings and success for the entire family, Mazal Tov to **Mr. Isaac Meta and his wife Estelle** on the birth of a newborn granddaughter **Estelle-Camille**, Mabrouk, Amen. *** **Mr. Isaac Meta, his wife Estelle, and their children.** Blessings and success for the entire family, Mazal Tov to **Mr. Yehoshua Khoudari and his wife Susan** on the birth of a newborn granddaughter **Estelle-Camille**, Mabrouk, Amen. *** **Mr. Shemuel Khoudari, his wife Olga, and their**

children. Blessings and success for the entire family, Mazal Tov on the birth of a newborn daughter **Estelle-Camille**, Mabrouk, Amen. *** **Mr. Farah Hamra, his wife Dina, and their children.** Blessings and success for the entire family, Mazal Tov to **Mr. Isaac Meta and his wife Estelle** on the birth of a newborn granddaughter **Estelle-Camille**, Mabrouk, Amen. *** **Mr. Elias Levy, his wife Bella, and their children.** Blessings and success for the entire family, Amen. *** Hazzan **Hacham David Shiro, his wife Rachel, and their children.** Blessings and success for the entire family, Amen. *** **Mr. Edmon Saada, his wife Hiyat, and their children.** Blessings and success for the entire family, Amen. *** Mashgiah **Mr. Mayer Tuvia Halibron, his wife Malka, and their children.** Blessings, health, and success for the entire family, Amen. *** **Mr. Farah Hamra, his wife Dina, and their children.** Blessings and success for the entire family, Leilui Nishmat his father **Yosef Ben Nahliah a"h**, Amen. *** **The Farhi Family.** Blessings and success for the entire family, Leilui Nishmat their mother **Sarah Bat Salha 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. *** **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. *** **The Shakalo family.** Blessings and success for the entire family, Leilui Nishmat their mother **Touni Mazal Bat Rachel 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 **Amelia Bat Mazal a"h**, Amen.

This week sponsorship total \$1000.

Weekly expenditures total \$1300.

Tizku L'Mitzvot, Amen!

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