

Congregation

◆◆◆◆ **"Beth Yosef"** ◆◆◆◆

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

**Rabbi Aharon Farhi**

*Parashat Re'eh*

25<sup>th</sup> Av 5780

*Maqam Raast*

Issue # 903

**Mr. Eliyahu Levy, President**

*Haftarat Aniya So'arah*

August 15<sup>th</sup> 2020

*Candle Lighting 7:36pm \* Shekiah 7:54pm \* Shir Hashirim 7:00pm followed by Minha Friday Night Shahrarit Shabbat 8:15am \* Minha Shabbat 7:20pm \* Shabbat Ends 8:34pm & Rabbenu Tam 9:04pm*

*Time for Talit 4:47am \* Seasonal Hour 80:00 \* Alot Hashahar 4:31am \* Netz Hachama 6:07am*

*Weekday Minha 7:30pm \* Earliest Time for Arbit 6:49pm \* Tzet Hacoachavim 8:29pm \* Chatzot 1:00*

*Latest Time for Morning Keriat Shema 8:31am \* Latest Time for Morning Amidah 9:51am*

***Rosh Hodesh Elul will be Thursday & Friday August 20<sup>th</sup> – 21<sup>st</sup>***

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Please do not read this bulletin during Tefillah or Keriat Hatorah

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Parashat Re'eh is read every year before Rosh Hodesh Elul, the month when we ask for mercy in judgment and busy ourselves with Selihot. The Rambam says: during this month of mercy we must increase our contributions to charity and our performance of good deeds. The Rambam does not specify any other Mitzvah, such as Tefillin, but rather he specifies charity. Parashat Re'eh in fact mentions many instances of charity, during the paragraph which commands us to be warm-hearted and open-handed to our brethren, such as: "You shall surely open your hand", "You shall surely give", and "You shall lend him his requirement", as well as regarding your Jewish Bondsman: "Adorn him generously". All instances mentioned are each different forms of charity. In Parashat Emor, when the Torah discusses the Moadim, listing the holidays, it first mentions Shabbat and afterwards mentions Pesah, Shavuot, Rosh Hashana, Yom Kippur, and Sukkot. Between Shavuot and Rosh Hashana, the Torah mentions the Mitzvah of leaving behind certain amounts for the poor when harvesting your field. Why was this Mitzvah of charity mentioned right in middle of listing the Moadim, specifically right before Rosh Hashana? This was intended to hint the importance of making charitable contributions to the needy during the month of Elul, right before Rosh Hashana. Tzedakah has the power to annul decrees and save from strict judgment. In fact, charity has the ability to save from death. Besides for Tzedakah, a person should also spend more time with prayers and Selihot. Even though the Gemara says that: reproduction, longevity, and livelihood are all based on a person's Mazal, and not directly related to a person's merits, nonetheless if a person serves Hashem with

dedication and devotion, he can merit the blessings of children, wealth, and extended years of life, even if his Mazal would not have provided him with such blessings. Hacham Ovadia Yossef ztl explains: even when Mazal denies a person of livelihood, offspring, or longevity, nonetheless prayer can override the restrictions and completely change the course of your future, as the Pasuk hints: if you serve Hashem (through prayer) then your bread and water will be blessed (livelihood) nobody will be barren in your household (offspring) and the number of your days will be filled (longevity). There is no greater form of service to Hashem today than praying with concentration and devotion. May Hashem watch over us, Amen.

#### **Insights on the Parasha**

**1 – Even as the deer and the hart are eaten, so may you eat it** – When discussing permission to eat unconsecrated meat, why does the Pasuk specifically mention the deer? The Chozeh from Lublin explains: This Pasuk is teaching us a valuable lesson. A deer sleeps with one eye open and one eye closed. We must use this tactic when feeding our desires and temptations as well. For example, when we eat meat, even though it is permissible to do so, nonetheless we must not over-indulge in the enjoyment, and must keep one eye open and one eye closed, meaning we should stop halfway and be satisfied at that point, and never chase our desires to the end.

**2 – You shall open your hand** – When a person gives charity to the poor, he must open his hand and notice how each of his five fingers are all different shapes and sizes. However, when the hand is closed, all fingers then look the same and

the sizes of each do not matter while the hand is balled closed in a fist. A person must recognize the needs of the individual that he is helping, and understand what is required in order to properly assist. Those needs are not all the same. David Hamelech writes in Tehillim, the one who understands the poor is fortunate, meaning that one must recognize the situation and help accordingly. (*Sar Shalom*)

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

20 years after the Temple's destruction, in the year 88AD. While the courts of Bet Shamai would disagree with the courts of Bet Hillel on many points in judgment, nonetheless they all truly loved and respected each other. Even though one says permitted and the other says forbidden, or one says kosher and the other disagrees, they continued to marry into the families of one another, and never fought outside of the realms of Halacha. True war in Torah law was waged between them, without allowing it to result in improper character, resentment, or any form of dislike or unfriendliness. If anyone wished to follow Bet Shamai or Bet Hillel, he was more than welcome to choose a side. However, if one was inconsistent with his following, and only held like whichever side was more lenient on any specific ruling, then that person is wicked. On the other hand, if one always followed whichever was stricter, then he is compared to a fool who walks through the dark. The correct way is to decide to follow either Bet Shamai, whether he is strict or lenient in any matter, or decide to follow Bet Hillel fully. Rabi Abba says in the name of Shemuel: for three consecutive years Bet Shamai and Bet Hillel disagreed and argued, each convinced of their own position, until a heavenly voice rang out and said, that although both positions are holy words of life, nonetheless the Halacha follows the rulings of Bet Hillel.

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

For leg and foot pain, try the following practices: 1- Try not to stand as much and make an effort to sit more often. However, do not sit too much either. Rotate positions in a healthy cycle throughout the day. 2- As the legs are exercised, the muscles are activated and cause the blood to return to the heart. So, in addition to changing

positions, it is recommended to exercise the leg muscles as well. 3- While you are laced up in shoes, rise slowly on your tiptoes as much as you can, slowly return, and then before the heel reaches the floor slowly rise up again on your tiptoes. This exercise, while very effective, can sometimes cause cramps in the muscle below the knee, so start-off gradually, as if doing therapy through an orthopedic exercise. 4- Any movement or exercise of the ankle will activate the muscles to cause pressure on the veins and return the blood back to the heart, thus preventing accumulation in the veins. 5- Regular paced walking is the best action for exercising the leg muscles. 6- Regarding overweight people, these exercises that we mentioned should be conducted for effective weight loss, and only then should one increase his walking, because walking while overweight can be harmful to the cartilage. 7- Lack of movement of the leg can cause a clot deep within a vein, so it is of great importance to properly and sufficiently make use of blood thinners to prevent the formation of clots when one's movements are limited.

### ***Rishon LeSion: R' Yaakov Ayash ztl 1750-1817***

Yitzchak Ayash lived in Algeria in the city of Modia. When he reached the appropriate age, he married his wife Rachel. After many years of marriage, they were still not blessed with a child. They poured out their hearts to Hashem in prayer, but they did not find salvation. Finally, they decided to separate. Together they approached the Rabbi of Algeria, Rabbi Rephael Yedidya Serour, and asked him to write a Get, a divorce document, for them. This pained the Rabbi tremendously, as he explained that whoever divorces his first wife causes the Mizbeah, the holy Altar, to cry tears. His pain was so great that he could not allow them to simply get divorced yet. He spoke with them softly, to their hearts, convincing them to stay together in marriage, and finally promised them that if they listened to his advice and did not get divorced, then they would be blessed with a baby boy within a year. At his Brit Milah, they should name him Yehuda, and when he is old enough, the Rabbi himself promised to teach the boy Torah. The couple left the Rabbi overjoyed, encouraged, and confident in his blessing. Within a year, Yitzchak and Rachel had a baby boy who they

named Yehuda at his Milah according to the instructions of the Rabbi. At his third birthday, the father wrapped the little boy in a Talit and brought him to the house of the Rabbi, who kept his promise and spent many hours each day teaching Torah to the young boy Yehuda.

**Mussar: *Your Friend's Honor***

How much should a person be careful regarding the dignity of his friend? They say that in heaven they will ask a person: "Did you appoint sovereignty of your friends over you?" Meaning: Have you behaved with your friend as if he was your king? If one borrowed money from his friend, or bought goods as a loan, in order to earn money from the loan or from the merchandise he bought, in an effort to earn a living for his family, how much must he be faithful and return the full amount borrowed to the lender at the time he set forth with him, and not cause unnecessary sorrow and grief during the collection process. He should surely not tell his friend, "Come back tomorrow"! Such an unappreciative attitude carries a great sin and delivers a harsh punishment. One who is careful to pay for goods at the fixed time, and always makes sure not to upset the owner or lender who has done him a favor, Hashem will enable and bless him to buy, sell, and earn at a profit, all because he strives to be honest and pay back in a timely fashion without drama. He will then earn more money, buy more merchandise, and sell it with blessings. However, if he thinks the opposite, and delays repaying loans or credit in a timely fashion, then unfortunately Hashem closes the gates of livelihood to him, and his condition deteriorates from day to day. He does not realize that all of this is because he did not return the loan, or settle the credit, in a timely fashion with the owner. Therefore, we must be careful not to cause any sorrow to any person, especially those who have helped us in our time of need and allowed us to borrow so generously, and surely, we must be careful not to disgrace him or shame him. May Hashem watch over us, Amen.

**Story: *Baron Sir Moses Montefiore 1785-1885***

Sir Moses merited wonderful longevity. When he turned one hundred years old, his hometown Ramsgate in Britain was decorated with flags, as if it were a national holiday. In Jewish communities

around the world, many also celebrated his 100th birthday. In the winter of 1885 he became very sick, but he soon recovered and was healthy once again. That summer however, he became sick once again, and this time did not recover. He passed away on the 16<sup>th</sup> of Av in 1885, as his soul left his body while reciting Shema. He is buried next to his wife Yehudit, near the Shul that he built in Ramsgate. Without children to inherit him, he bequeathed much of his property to his relatives, and to numerous Jewish charities. For the synagogue he established in his city, he created a special foundation that would support Kollel students. Upon his last request, he instructed for a number of items to be buried with him, which were important to him during his life, such as the Talit his mother gifted to him for his wedding, and the branch of an olive tree that he picked with his own hands on Mount Carmel during his first visit to the Land of Israel. On his coffin he ordered that they place a specific sack of dirt from the Holy Land, the same soil he had taken from his visit to our matriarch Rachel's tomb. He was also buried with a notebook that recorded his life's work in detail, regarding all that he had done for his brethren the Jewish people throughout the world. May his merits protect us, and may the memory of the righteous be blessed, Amen.

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

**1** – A young boy not yet Bar Mitzvah may read the Torah on Shabbat for his own Aliyah but not for others, but he cannot receive an Aliyah on Mondays and Thursdays. Whenever completing a Torah reading, half-Kaddish is recited, besides for Minha Shabbat and Minha on a fast day. The Torah is returned to the Hechal after Kaddish Titkabal.

**2** – The Torah is kept closed while returning it to the Hechal, however if someone came late to Shul, then you can open the Torah so that he can locate the first letter of his name. If a Sefer Torah is not available, then the Hazzan at least reads from a Chumash out loud, without reciting a blessing on the Torah reading or the Haftara reading.

**Laws: *Pidyon Haben***

**1** – A firstborn that had a Pidyon performed four weeks and one day after birth, i.e. he was born Shabbat morning 5am, and the Pidyon was

performed on Sunday at 6pm, four weeks and 37 hours from birth – the Pidyon must be redone, without reciting a blessing, on the night of the second day, which is the beginning of thirty one days from birth. The Cohen who received the first five coins should return them as a present. However, if it was performed when it was only 5pm on Sunday, which was not yet 4 weeks and 37 hours from birth, then a blessing may be recited when the Pidyon is redone. The father should recite Shehechyanu on a new garment or similar.

**2** – If the time for Pidyon arrived but the baby was never healthy enough to have a Brit Milah, the Pidyon is nonetheless performed on time, and the Brit Milah will be performed when the baby is healthy enough. The Mitzvah of Pidyon will in fact also help improve the baby's health.

**3** – If the baby became fit health-wise for Milah at the same time that the Pidyon can be performed, the Milah takes precedence and is performed first, followed by the Milah.

**4** – If one did not yet perform the Pidyon and now it is Erev Shabbat, he should perform the Pidyon right away, as each day there would be an obligation ignored. One should then have just cake on Friday afternoon, not a meal, in order to eat Seudah Shabbat properly with an appetite.

#### *Sponsors*

\*\*\* *Anonymous Donor*. Blessings and success for the entire family, Amen. \*\*\* *Mr. Avraham Esses, his wife Esty, their parents, and their children*. Blessings and success for the entire family, Mazal Tov on the birth of a son *Edward, Mabrouk*, Amen. \*\*\* *Mr. Eli Levy, his wife Becky, and their children*. Blessings, health, and success for the entire family, Leilui Nishmat *Rosalyn Raizel Bat Chava a"h*, Amen. \*\*\* *Mr. Farah Hamra, his wife Dina, and their children*. Blessings and success for the entire family, Leilui Nishmat *Rosalyn Raizel Bat Chava a"h*, Amen. \*\*\* *Mrs. Simcha Franco and her son Yosef Ashkenazi*. Blessings and success for the entire family, Leilui Nishmat her father *Yosef Ben Esther a"h*, and Leilui Nishmat her mother *Sarah Bat Simcha a"h*, Amen. \*\*\* *Blessed siblings, brothers and sisters, of the Bawabe Family, and Mrs. Touni*. Blessings and success for the entire family,

Leilui Nishmat their brother *Yitzhak Bawabe Ben Simcha a"h*, Amen. \*\*\* *R' Simon Goldstein, his wife Simmy, and their children*. Blessings and success for the entire family, Amen. \*\*\* *Blessed siblings: Faraj, David, Clod, Edmon, Janett, Rina, Esther, Gila, Syma, and Evon of the Nahum Family*. Blessings and success for the entire family, Leilui Nishmat their mother *Ayala Gazalo Bat Rima 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 Shakalo family*. Blessings and success for the entire family, Leilui Nishmat their mother *Touni Mazal Bat Rachel a"h*, Amen. \*\*\* *Mr. Ovadia 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. Frieda Hasbani Rabi and her children*. Blessings and success for the entire family, Leilui Nishmat their father *Nissim Sami Hasbani Ben Amilia a"h*, Amen. \*\*\* *Mr. Eddie Ishay, his wife Yola, and their children*. Blessings, health, Refuah Shelemah, and success for the entire family, thank you to all those who have been reading Tehillim for Refuah Shelemah, Leilui Nishmat *Rachel Bat Shafikah a"h*, Amen. \*\*\* *Mr. Victor Maleh, his wife Shirley, and their children*. Blessings and success for the entire family, Leilui Nishmat his father *Yehuda Aslan Ben Jamila a"h*, Amen. \*\*\* *Mr. Gabi Ballas, his wife Orli, and their children*. Blessings and success for the entire family, Mazal Tov to *Albert and Ruthie* on the birth of a son *Natan, Mabrouk*, Amen.

*This week's sponsorship total is \$1250. Weekly cost of production and distribution total is \$1300. Tizku L'Mitzvot, Amen!*

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