

Congregation

◆◆◆"Beth Yosef"◆◆◆

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

Rabbi Aharon Farhi
Parashat Vayetze
12th Kislev 5784

Maqam Ajam
Issue #1050

Mr. Eliyahu Levy, President
Haftarat VeAmi Teluim
November 25th 2023

*Candle Lighting 4:14pm * Shekiah 4:32pm * Shir Hashirim 4:10pm followed by Minha Friday Night
Shaharit Shabbat 8:15am * Minha Shabbat 3:55pm * Shabbat Ends 5:13pm & Rabbenu Tam 5:43pm
Time for Talit 5:57am * Seasonal Hour 57 * Alot Hashahar 5:44am * Netz Hachama 6:54am
Weekday Minha 4:15pm * Earliest Time for Arbit 3:57pm * Tzet Hacoachavim 5:08pm * Chatzot 11:42
Latest Time for Morning Keriat Shema 8:35am * Latest Time for Morning Amidah 9:32am*

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The generous donor **Mr. Leon Farhi, his wife Eva, their parents, and their children.**
May Hashem bless them with spiritual and physical blessings and success,
Mazal Tov to the bride and groom **Henri and Joyce**, Mabrouk,
and a healthy and easy childbirth for their daughter-in-law **Grace**, Amen.

Those who wish to contact Rabbi Aharon Farhi can call (646) 552-3412

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Please do not read this bulletin during Tefillah or Keriat Hatorah

The Pasuk says about both Patriarchs, Yitzchak and Yaakov, that Yitzchak loved Rivka and Yaakov loved Rachel, but there is a difference that can teach us a valuable lesson. By Yitzchak, it says that after he took Rivka as a wife and saw that she was special, that she had taken over the place of his mother Sarah, that he then loved her. By Yaakov, it says that upon meeting Rachel he loved her, before they were married, as he met her by the well, and observed her in the house of Lavan well before they were married, and because of his love he agreed to work for seven years in order to marry her. He did not want to marry Leah. The author of *Emek Davar* explains: Yitzchak did not have a choice who he would marry, his wife was brought to him by the servant Eliezer at the command and instruction of his father. He hadn't even met her before marrying her. Yaakov had plenty of time to meet and get to know Rachel before marrying her. But there's a deeper difference. Yitzchak loved Rivka because of her spirituality, her ability to take the place of his holy mother Sarah in the tent and bring in the Shechinah, and understood

that she was meant to be his wife after hearing the story from Eliezer about how Hashem had given him great success in his mission of finding her for him. She had shown great kindness to Eliezer and he loved her with great joy, understanding that she would be his partner in producing the holy nation of Israel. Yaakov wanted to marry Rachel, but the heavens had chosen otherwise, and he was married first to Leah, whom he did not want to marry. Hashem saw that Leah was not wanted, and therefore the decision was made that six Shevatim as well as Dina would come forth from her, the one who was pushed aside undesired. Nonetheless, even though she was not considered the main wife in the household, she merited the Kehunah priesthood, the Leviyah services, the Malchut sovereignty, and the crown and yoke of the Torah. The lesson we learn from this is that the value of love for a wife should come after marriage, that is the true essence of love, after becoming one, after realizing that Hashem has personally paired man and wife together in order to build a home within our nation, and with such love

that is true and meaningful the couple will be blessed with spiritual and physical blessings and success through their union made in heaven. May Hashem watch over us, Amen.

Insights on the Parasha

When Yaakov left Be'er Shava on his way to Charan, he experienced five miracles: 1- The hours of the day were shortened and the sun set early, because Hashem wanted to speak with Yaakov in a dream. 2- The twelve stones he placed around his head when he went to sleep became one. 3- Yaakov was able to move the heavy boulder from on top of the well by himself. 4- The water of the well rose up to Yaakov, and continued to flow upwards throughout the twenty-two years Yaakov was in Charan. 5- The land miraculously shortened so that the same day he set out on his journey he arrived at his destination. Before going to Charan, Yaakov stayed in Shem and Eber for fourteen years to learn Torah. A hint to this is in the Pasuk: MiBe'er Shava: *Ba Shem Eber*. Vayelech Charan: the first letters Vav and Chet have the numerical value of fourteen for the years he spent there. Vayifga has the numerical value of 169, in which 168 months equals fourteen years, during which he learned without sleeping all that time, and only in the beginning of the next month, the 169th month, did he reach this place and sleep there, as the Pasuk says that he went to sleep in that place after the sun set.

History in Brief

130 years after the Hurban, 200AD. R' Yossi merited great children who were Torah Scholars: R' Yishmael, R' Elazar, R' Chalafta, R' Abtilas, and R' Menachem. R' Yossi performed Yibum for his brother who passed away without children for the sake of the Mitzvah. His son R' Elazar went with R' Shimon Bar Yohai to Rome to remove a decree against the Jewish people, and said that he saw the Parochet of the Bet Hamikdash and the Tzitz of the Cohen Gadol in Rome, and the Parochet had drops of blood on it from the Korbanot services. He also saw the throne of King Shelomo. When his son R' Elazar passed away

during his lifetime, R' Yossi went to the Bet Midrash and gave Derasha all day Leilui Nishmat his son, for the sake of the people who needed to hear his teachings. He said that in his lifetime he never said something about a person while looking around, meaning that he had never spoken words considered Lashon Hara. He honored the words of his fellow. He said that he knew he was not a Cohen, but if they told him to go up and bless the people he would do so. He would say that one who honors the Torah will be honored, while one who does not honor the Torah will be shamed. A person is not to be honored by his place, rather he should honor his place.

Health and Recovery

Especially during the winter months, the flu is a contagious respiratory illness caused by influenza viruses that infect the nose, throat, and sometimes the lungs. It can cause mild to severe illness, and at times can lead to death. The best way to prevent flu is by getting a flu vaccine each year. People who have the flu often feel some or all of these symptoms: fever or feeling feverish/chills, cough, sore throat, runny or stuffy nose, muscle or body aches, headaches, fatigue (tiredness), and some people may have vomiting and diarrhea, though this is more common in children than adults. It's important to note that not everyone with flu will have a fever. Most experts believe that flu viruses spread mainly by tiny droplets made when people with the flu cough, sneeze, or talk. These droplets can land in the mouths or noses of people who are nearby. Less often, a person might get the flu by touching a surface or object that has the flu virus on it and then touching their own mouth, nose or possibly their eyes. Anyone can get the flu (even healthy people), and serious problems related to the flu can happen at any age, but some people are at higher risk of developing serious flu-related complications if they get sick. This includes people 65 years and older, people of any age with certain chronic medical conditions (such as asthma, diabetes, or heart disease), pregnant people, and children younger than 5 years. The flu vaccine has been

shown to reduce flu related illnesses and the risk of serious flu complications that can result in hospitalization or even death. Everyday preventive actions (like staying away from people who are sick, covering coughs and sneezes, and frequent handwashing) are recommended to help slow the spread of germs that cause respiratory (nose, throat, and lungs) illnesses, like the flu. It is very difficult to distinguish the flu from other viral or bacterial respiratory illnesses based on symptoms alone. There are tests available to diagnose the flu. If you are otherwise fit and healthy, there is usually no need to see a doctor if you have flu-like symptoms. In most cases you can treat the symptoms of a mild flu yourself. Most people will get better by themselves within 7 to 10 days even without any treatment. Some things you can do to relieve flu symptoms include: getting plenty of rest, drinking plenty of water and other non-alcoholic fluids to prevent dehydration, keeping warm, eating a healthy diet with plenty of fruit and vegetables, avoiding exposure to cigarette smoke, inhaling steam from a hot bath or shower in a closed room to help relieve a blocked nose, and eating hot soup. If you have a sore throat, try: gargling with warm salty water, sucking on an ice cube or a throat lozenge, and drinking hot water with honey and freshly squeezed lemon juice. There are also several over the counter medicines available to ease cold and flu symptoms, such as pain and fever. If you are sick with the flu, stay home and avoid close contact with other people until you feel better. Antibiotics only work on infections caused by bacteria. As the flu is caused by a virus, taking antibiotics will not help you get better faster or stop you from spreading it to other people. Taking antibiotics can cause side effects like an upset stomach, diarrhea, and thrush. When you take antibiotics for the cold or flu, you also increase the risk of antibiotic resistance in the future. Make sure to always consult with your doctor.

Mussar: *Lashon Hara*

1- To erase the sin of Lashon Hara, one should learn the Halachot of Lashon Hara to gain atonement. 2- A person who performed good deeds his entire life might find himself standing in front of the heavenly court without any merits. Why? Because the sins of his evil words had ruined all his merits. 3- The second Bet Hamikdash was destroyed because of Lashon Hara spoken by people about others. 4- The punishment for Lashon Hara during the times of the Bet Hamikdash was Tzaraat, as the Torah states, but today without the Bet Hamikdash the punishment for Lashon Hara is poverty, which is similar to Tzaraat. 5- The prayers of someone who speaks Lashon Hara are not accepted in heaven. 6- One who speaks or listens to Lashon Hara deserves to be bitten by dogs. 7- When one commits the sin of Lashon Hara, the heavens speak against him as well, measure for measure. 8- When there is Lashon Hara, the heavens hold back rain, and blessings do not flow down from the heavens.

Rishon LeSion: The Humble Gaon *Hacham Yaakov Attie 1922-2016*

Morenu VeRabbenu Hacham Yaakov was born in Halab Aram Soba Aleppo on the 3rd of Iyar in 1922 to his father R' Rephael Attie z"l and his mother the Tzadket Marat Frieda Harari Cohen. On Monday the 10th of Iyar he entered Brit Milah of Avraham Avinu, through the well-known expert Mohel in Halab Hacham Yitzchak Ben Hacham Yeshaya Dayan z"l. In his youth he learned from his father, and in the Talmud Torah, a curriculum filled with Torah, Yirat Shamayim, Mussar, and Derech Eretz. When he was fifteen years old, his father passed away suddenly, leaving behind a widow and many orphans. Although they lived through poverty, he continued learning Torah with great energy and sacrifice, in Yeshivat Degel Torah in Halab, by his teachers Hacham Moshe Tawil from Eli HaCohen, with his colleague Hacham Shelomo Zaafrani z"l. From his youth he was

vigorously studious throughout his whole life, always sitting and learning in front of a Sefer. He would wake up before Chatzot, in the winter, spring, summer, and fall, and open the doors of the Yeshiva. He would then learn with a Chavruta until Shaharit, with Morenu VeRabbenu Hacham Yom Tov Yedid z"l and another Hacham. In one winter, they completed the whole Tur with Bet Yosef Chelek Orach Chaim with all the side commentaries. After Shaharit, while all his colleagues returned home for breakfast, he sat in Yeshiva with a Pita, ate, and continued learning.

Laws: Besamim

1 – We recite a blessing of Besamim on liquid fragrance whether still in a bottle or when poured on hands. Some say that we do not recite a blessing when it is only in a bottle because it does not have substance in that form, and it is therefore best not to smell it, and if one smells it he should not recite a blessing. One should definitely not recite a blessing on synthetic scent as that does not come from a source and does not have substance.

2 – One does not recite a blessing on air fresheners or potpourri because its purpose is only to cancel out unwanted smells.

3 – It is forbidden to recite a blessing on a fragrance that is hanging around a woman's neck because it is immodest.

4 – One should be careful not to intentionally smell a fragrance that is on his wife who is Niddah, but if she removes the fragrance and places it on the table, i.e. a flower, then he may recite a blessing and smell it. If she uses a fragrance from a bottle, the husband may smell the bottle and use the fragrance for himself as well.

5 – When sniffing Tabak, one does not recite a blessing since the fragrance does not come from the actual Tabak but rather from an additive, as the Tabak itself is dry, and the fragrance does not have substance.

6 – One does not recite a blessing on a forbidden fragrance, i.e. idolatry.

7 – One does not recite a blessing on the smell of hot fresh bread that comes out of the oven.

Remember these measurements:

Kezayit = 28.80

Gerogeret = 1920gm

Manna = 480gm

Sela = 4 Dinarim

5 Selaim of Pidyon = 96.10gm silver

Shekel = 9.60gm silver

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