

Congregation

# "Beth Yosef"

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

Rabbi Aharon Farhi

Parashat **Vayikra**

3<sup>rd</sup> Nissan 5780

Maqam Raast

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Mr. Eliyahu Levy, President

Haftarat **Am Zu**

March 28<sup>th</sup> 2020

**Candle Lighting 6:57pm \* Shekiah 7:15pm \* Shir Hashirim 6:45pm followed by Minha Friday Night  
Shaharit Shabbat 8:15am \* Minha Shabbat 6:40pm \* Shabbat Ends 7:58pm & Rabbenu Tam 8:28pm  
Time for Talit 5:33am \* Seasonal Hour 73:00 \* Alot Hashahar 5:18am \* Netz Hachama 6:46am  
Weekday Minha 7:10pm \* Earliest Time for Arbit 6:22pm \* Tzet Hacochavim 7:53pm \* Chatzot 1:00  
Latest Time for Morning Kriat Shema 8:57am \* Latest Time for Morning Amidah 10:10am**

Please do not read this bulletin during Tefillah or Kriat Hatorah

After the completion of the Mishkan, all of Bnei Yisrael were eagerly waiting to see what would happen next. The Pasuk states: *When a man among you brings an offering to Hashem*. The Torah uses the Hebrew word ‘Meekem’, ‘among you’, or rather ‘from you’, to indicate that the first form of sacrifice is not an animal, but rather the person himself. The most valuable sacrifice before Hashem is the humility of a person, when a person breaks his haughty disposition and recognizes and embraces his limitations before Hashem. A humbled spirit is most precious before Hashem. As well, when a person fasts, he sacrifices his blood and fat to Hashem, as he is effectively being satisfied with less, benefitting less from worldly pleasures. The Pasuk then states that sacrifices are to be offered from sheep, cattle, and birds. These are animals that are hunted, not animals that are predators, especially the doves and turtledoves amongst the birds. When offering such animals, we create a pleasant aroma before Hashem, as it is accepted by Hashem and we therefore gain the atonement we need. All sacrifices, regardless of the monetary value, whether it is cattle, sheep, birds, or even flour, the Pasuk states that their offering creates a pleasant aroma before Hashem. However, if one is able to afford cattle and he instead brings only birds, if he can afford the best and only brings much cheaper options, this is not a form of humility or act of simplicity, rather it is wrong and ineffective. A wealthy man serves meat, fish, and all types of delicacies on his own table. He wears fancy stylish quality

clothing, and enjoys a lavish lifestyle. If he offers a sacrifice that is below his normal standards, heaven will prosecute his actions. All must sacrifice in the amount that properly represents their personal standards, in order to achieve the required pleasant aroma before Hashem. May Hashem watch over us, Amen.

## Insights on the Parasha

The word *Vayikra* in the beginning of this week’s Parasha includes a small letter Alef. In the beginning of Divre Hayamim, regarding Adam Harishon, the Alef is written small as well. What is the connection? Adam Harishon sinned and fell, because he had been too proud and sure of himself, having been formed directly by Hashem, so the Alef is written small. Moshe Rabbenu, on the other hand, repaired this mistake, when Hashem called out to him, and he reacted by feeling humbled and unworthy. With his small Alef, through his actions of humility, he was able to fix the damage of Adam Harishon, which is why the following Pasuk then writes ‘Adam’ with a regular sized letter Alef.

## History in Brief

When Rabi Yochanan Ben Zakai became sick, his students came to visit him. He saw them enter and began to cry. They asked him to bless them. He said, may it be Hashem’s will that they fear heaven as much as they fear people, as one may feel more comfortable to sin when he is alone rather than when he is in public. He told them to prepare a seat for Chizkiyahu Melech Yehuda who is coming to

escort him. Then Rabi Yochanan passed away at the age of 120, in the year 73 CE, five years after the Temple's destruction. The Sages appointed Rabban Gamliel as Nasi, the son of Rabban Shimon Ben Gamliel who was one of the ten martyrs. Rabban Gamliel was young for this position. In the gathering of the Sanhedrin, he would sit in the middle, while Rabi Tzadok Hazaken and his brother sat to his right, and other elder Sages sat to his left. Rabban Gamliel, the new Nasi, declared that any Talmid whose insides were not equal to his outsides in fear of heaven, should not be allowed into the Bet Midrash. He placed a guard at the door to restrict access to students who were unworthy. These are the names of some of the Sages who were in the Sanhedrin during the days of Rabban Gamliel: Rabi Chanina Sgan HaCohanim, Rabi Nechunia Ben Hakana, Nachum Ish Gam Zu, Rabi Dosa, Rabi Yochanan Ben Goodgoda, Abba Shaul, Rabi Yossi, Rabi Yishmael, Rabi Tarfon, Rabi Yochanan Ben Nouri, Rabi Houtzpiah HaMeturgeman, Rabi Yehoshua, and Rabi Akiva. Over them all was Rabi Eliezer Ben Horkenos.

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

We discussed keeping the body healthy regarding digestion, now let's discuss the health of our gums and teeth. People are generally concerned about the state of their teeth, but they simply do not care enough about the condition of their gums. Of course, the teeth are very important, as anyone who has unhealthy teeth can tell you that without teeth it would be very difficult to chew, and even with dentures, chewing with artificial teeth is far less convenient than the natural experience of original teeth. When a person leaves the dentist after the doctor has told him that he has no cavities, he is happy, he is satisfied with his condition, he has no problems. In fact, this is great news for the teeth, no? But what about the gums? The gums are the connection between the jawbone and teeth, the gingival which catches the tooth as it surrounds it. If a person does not properly maintain his or her oral hygiene, in the gums can accumulate food and germs, and gingivitis begins, which results in periodontal issues, and if not treated the condition can worsen, until the point that nothing further can be done, and finally the tooth will actually fall out of the gums even though there are no cavities in the tooth! You might then ask the doctor: Didn't you tell me my teeth were good? How could they possibly be good if they fell out? The doctor will answer: True,

your teeth were healthy, without cavities, but what can I do? You didn't take care of your gums! You might then go on and ask why he didn't tell you about your gums at the time of the checkup? Why didn't he educate you and warn you? To which he will have no answer. One of the dental doctors explain: Unfortunately, there are many cases where a fifty-year-old person comes in for a checkup and cleaning, leaves with beautiful teeth void of any cavities, but because of the condition of the gums, the teeth will have to be removed, because the gums are no longer able to fulfill their job.

### ***Mussar: The Power of Evil***

Our sages teach us: When Hashem initially created the world, He made it never ending. For reasons discussed in the Gemara, He then limited parts of the world. We can learn from this Gemara that the creation of evil was also created without borders and never ending. However, evil was not changed and is still borderless. A person cannot grasp this concept and is unable to fathom the idea that evil is never ending. The Gemara teaches us concerning how many steps are necessary to complete tasks: Michael (angel) completes his tasks in one step, Gavriel (angel) in two, Eliyahu Hanavi in four, and the Angel of Death in eight. However, in times of plagues and epidemics, or other such times of calamities and misfortunes, the Angel of Death can fulfill his tasks in only one step. There are times when there is so much influence of evil and impurity that destruction can occur much quicker and easier. For example: Hitler Harasha and the Nazi's, may their memory be blotted out. The power and control he had over millions and millions of Germans was not due to any outstanding leadership skillsets or ruler qualities that he may have had. On the contrary, he was not healthy and nonetheless he controlled many. How did he do it? Terribly evil and impure powers, such that has never been seen before in history, dwelled upon him, and it was those powers that gave him control and success, not his own abilities, talents, or qualities. Hashem allowed these forces of evil to take over, and the Holocaust took place. There was a purpose for it all, and the entire historic chapter was cause and effect, as well as our nation's behavior and actions. During those years, the Mekubalim in Yerushalayim went to the Kotel and tried to diminish the evil power of that wicked man. However, when they tried, they realized that an overwhelming power of impurity was in effect and they didn't have the power to eradicate it, and couldn't even measure it. They were

forced to surrender to the situation. Nowadays, even amongst the most religious of neighborhoods, a clear and vivid change has taken place. A decent man from 150 years ago would be shocked and appalled at the situations we face today. Spirituality and purity have been bent over backwards to allow impurity and evil to dwell and share space in the world. We must realize the dangers we are facing and fight against them with all of our might. We simply cannot give up and allow impurity to be acknowledged and accepted as a part of life. If we allow a little room, it will spread and extend without boundaries, as impurity itself knows no bounds. A simple and practical example is the visual media. Although useful, it can be very destructive and is a terrible threat that one cannot and mustn't compromise with in life. May Hashem watch over us, Amen.

#### **Rishon LeSion: R' Yom Tov Algazi 1727-1802**

When R' Yom Tov heard the news that his Rebbe the holy Rashash, Rav Shalom Sharabi had passed away, his eyes dimmed as he blessed Baruch Dayan HaEmet. He tore his garment and sat on the floor. He began to realize that his Rebbe had told him quite a few cryptic things, when he last saw him before his journey, which foreshadowed his demise. He had mentioned the passing of the holy Arizal, and that his closest Talmid Rav Chaim Veital had not been by his side. He realized that it was now his responsibility to take his Rebbe's place as the leader of Bet Midrash Bet El. He sat for a long time, his head sunk between his hands, his thoughts hovering. It seemed as though he had left this world, and he was deeply thinking in the upper worlds. When Rabbi Yom Tov departed from Frankfurt, he was escorted by a large crowd, among them Rabbi Moshe Sofer, the Chatam Sofer, and the important financial supporter Rabbi Dan Guggenheim. After some time, as he was preparing to separate from the escort, Rabbi Yom Tov removed his wallet and handed over some banknotes to those accompanying him and said: "This money that I received from a person named Lilenthal, I believe his money is not kosher money, and I do not want to defile Jerusalem our holy city with such money. Please return this money to him." He then separated with warmth and an excited farewell. He blessed the escort as they left. Rabbi Dan Guggenheim remained frozen in his place for many minutes, unable to move his eyes from the sight of R' Yom Tov traveling further and further away in the distance. "R' Yom Tov had divine inspiration, Ruah HaKodesh", he said admiringly, "otherwise how else could he have

known that Lilenthal's money wasn't kosher, as he would often lend money with interest." When the money was returned to Lilenthal, his very soul grew furious. He thought to himself: "I will not rest until this money is used for the Rabbi and his Bet Midrash."

#### **Story**

Jacob, an orphan, would always proactively search for some temporary work, in order to earn a few pennies to bring home to his widowed mother. One day, he went into a large bakery and asked the boss: "Maybe I can be of service and perform some work for you?" The offer made the boss roar with laughter. "Can a little boy perform work? What work can you do for me? Even better question, why are you not currently in school?" Jacob did not explain, he only stated that he was in dire need of financial assistance. "Money?" the boss repeated, "You need money? Ok then, I will give you a task to fulfill. If you are able to fulfill this task to satisfaction, then you will earn a thousand rubles." A thousand rubles! Jacob's mouth gaped open in astonishment. A thousand rubles would finally help put his mother back on her feet, perhaps they may even be able to open a tiny shop selling bakery goods and cooked dishes, from which they could make a living and become financially independent moving forward! Jacob suddenly stopped himself, cleared his mind, and asked what task exactly was he requesting in order for him to earn such a generous offer. "Are you familiar with the flowing river not far from my home? If you meet me by this river tonight and stay inside the river with at least half your body submerged until dawn, then I will give you a thousand rubles tomorrow." "Absolutely!" Jacob agreed immediately. It was quite unfortunate that he did not fully understand the dangerous consequences he could experience from staying in the cold water for many hours, literally freezing to death. The rich man reiterated the rules with a firm shake of his finger as a warning: "This must be real! I will occasionally leave my house throughout the night to see if you are still there, as I'm sure you are aware, this will not be a free distribution of rubles. You must honestly earn it."

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

1 – Any utensil or vessel that you use to make Matzah, whether during the kneading process or during the baking process, should be cleaned very well every eighteen minutes. This basically means that a routine cleaning should be performed after every batch of Matzah is baked within eighteen

minutes. All those involved in the baking of Matzah must each year, before going to the Matzah bakery to make Matzah, spend sufficient amount of time studying and reviewing the Halachot so that he is fluent in all relevant laws in Shulchan Aruch.

**2** – When performing the Bedikat Chametz, one must check through all rooms and areas where there is a chance that one would find crumbs or Chametz of any kind. This includes vehicles as well. According to the toil will be the reward. Briefcases, purses, and any luggage, belonging to men, women, and children, should be searched through as well. One should wash his hands Netillah without a blessing before conducting the Bedikah. One who speaks unnecessarily, unrelatedly, during the Bedikah must recite “Baruch Shem...”, recite a new blessing, and continue searching. This is only if he spoke between the blessing and the actual searching. However, if he already started the search and only then interrupted by speaking, he does not repeat the blessing. One is forbidden from listening to music or even Divre Torah while performing the Bedikah.

### **Laws: Pesach**

**1** – All who keep Chametz in their possession during Pesach transgress a positive and negative commandment. One must sell his Chametz through the Rabbanim who are in charge. One who does not sell cannot benefit at all from them, not even smell them, and must destroy them.

**2** – Do not buy Chametz after Pesach from anyone except from those who have sold it through the Rabbanim.

**3** – The sick and elderly can appoint a messenger to sell their Chametz through the Rabbanim. If one sells another's Chametz without his knowledge, *Bediavad* (aftermath) it's a sale; however it is *Lechatechilah* (initially) not a sale unless one first receives permission.

**4** – Vessels used for Chametz must be cleaned with boiling water in order to render it fit for use during Pesach. Vessels used over fire require the *Leeboon* koshering process, while *Hagalalah* isn't good enough to render it fit for use. Ovens, however, cannot be cleaned with *Leeboon*.

**5** – Electric ovens must first be cleaned well by hand, not used for 24 hours, and then turned on to the maximum and left on for one hour.

**6** – One should use handmade Shemura Matzah for the Seder.

**7** – Work (physical labor) may not be done Erev Pesach after Chatzot, unless a non-Jew is the one

working. Business deals and transactions, however, may be performed until 4:00pm.

### **Sponsors**

\*\*\* **Mr. Eli Levy, his wife Becky, and their children.** Blessings, health, and success for the entire family, Amen. \*\*\* **Mrs. Kitta Dwek Bawabe, her husband Yossi, and her brother.** Blessings and success for the entire family, Leilui Nishmat their mother *Simcha Bat Mazal a”h*, Amen. \*\*\* **Mrs. Rina Jajati, her husband David, and their children.** Blessings and success for the entire family, Leilui Nishmat her father *Moshe Ben Hisni Salama 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. \*\*\* **Rabbi Yitzchak Farhi, his wife Shoshana, and their children.** Blessings and success for the entire family, Leilui Nishmat his mother *Dorett Sarah Bat Zakie a”h*, Amen. \*\*\* **Mrs. Frieda Hasbani and her children.** Blessings and success for the entire family, Leilui Nishmat their father *Nissim Sammy Hasbani Ben Amilya a”h*, Amen. \*\*\* **Anonymous.** Blessings and success for the entire family, Amen.

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*This week sponsorship total \$700.*

*Weekly expenditures total \$1300.*

*Tizku L'Mitzvot, Amen!*

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