

Congregation

◆◆◆◆ **"Beth Yosef"** ◆◆◆◆

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

**Rabbi Aharon Farhi**

Parashat **Emor**

15<sup>th</sup> Iyar 5780

*Maqam Siga*

Issue #889

**Mr. Eliyahu Levy, President**

*Haftarat VebaCohanim*

May 9<sup>th</sup> 2020

*Candle Lighting 7:41pm \* Shekiah 7:59pm \* Shir Hashirim 7:00pm followed by Minha Friday Night  
Shaharit Shabbat 8:15am \* Minha Shabbat 7:25pm \* Shabbat Ends 8:42pm & Rabbenu Tam 9:12pm  
Time for Talit 4:23am \* Seasonal Hour 82:00 \* Alot Hashahar 4:07am \* Netz Hachama 5:45am  
Weekday Minha 7:50pm \* Earliest Time for Arbit 6:54pm \* Tzet Hacoachavim 8:37pm \* Chatzot 12:52  
Latest Time for Morning Keriat Shema 8:13am \* Latest Time for Morning Amidah 9:35am*

***Lag BaOmer will be Tuesday May 12<sup>th</sup>***

Please do not read this bulletin during Tefillah or Keriat Hatorah

***Say to the Cohanim, the sons of Aharon.*** This week's Parasha lists all of the prohibitions that are commanded specifically for the Cohanim, which include: not to become impure, not to make a bald spot on the head, they shall be holy, not to desecrate the Name of Hashem, and not to marry a harlot, a desecrated woman, or a divorced woman. While all of these commandments are written in plural form, at the end of the Pesukim it switches to singular form, as if speaking to an individual, ***You shall sanctify him... he shall remain holy to you*** (singular). Why? This is teaching us that if a Cohen would marry someone that these Pesukim prohibit to him, i.e. a divorced woman, the Jewish courts can force him to divorce her in order that he maintain his high level. Since a Cohen who marries someone that he is not supposed to is from a very small percentage of the Cohanim, the Pasuk therefore writes the prohibition in singular form. ***A woman who has been divorced by her husband*** – of course she was divorced by her husband, can she be divorced any other way? *R' Elazar Ben Matia* explains: If a woman's husband, a Cohen, travels far away and witnesses come and claim that her husband has died, how do we know that if she performs Kiddushin (*first stage of marriage, without Nisuin the second stage*) and then her first husband returns, that she is permitted to her first husband, the Cohen? This Pasuk is teaching us that the woman is only forbidden to the Cohen if she has been divorced by her husband – in this case she really shouldn't even need a Get, divorce document, from the second husband because since she was still married to the first husband all along, the marriage to the second has never taken effect, and she can return to the first husband, the Cohen, even though the second husband does give her a

Get. We learn from here that if a woman is actually divorced from her husband who is a Cohen, even though she does not remarry, her first husband the Cohen is not allowed to remarry her, while a non-Cohen is allowed to remarry his wife in such a case. Why is a divorced woman forbidden to a Cohen while a widow is not? The *Siftei Cohen* explains: The essence of a Cohen is harmony and unity, as his holy services bring our nation closer together with Hashem. A divorced woman has been involved with separation. The souls of her husband and herself, which has been designated for unity from before their birth, has been separated from one another. Therefore, the Cohen cannot connect with such a person. A widow, however, is permitted to him, for perhaps the Cohen was actually her true match and the first husband was taken away with mercy and merit in order to allow the correct souls to connect. This is why she is called an Almana, widow – Al-Mana, meaning not from the portion, referring to the portion of the first husband. When the Torah permits a Cohen to become impure for his wife who has passed away, this permission and exception is only for a wife who was permitted to him, ***for the relative who is closest to him***, but not for a wife who he was not permitted to marry in the first place. May Hashem watch over us, Amen.

***Lag Ba'omer (33<sup>rd</sup> of the Omer)***

Lag Ba'omer is a day of celebration and a day of lamentation in honor of the great Tanna, Rabi Shimon Bar Yohai, may his merits shield us. We glorify the day with Torah learning and candle lighting Leilui Nishmat Rashbi. On this day the students of Rabi Akiva stopped dying. He was the author of the 'Zohar', which is the foundation of

Torah and Kabbalah, and illuminates the entire world with holiness. He is the Rabi Shimon that is always mentioned in the Gemara. When Hashem initially wished to create man, a man who was complete and pure, Rashbi would have fit the description. Rabi Elazar teaches us that Hashem is content to have created all of creation for the sake of Rashbi. He is compared to Moshe Rabbenu in greatness, as his soul is from the same source as Moshe, and his holiness is from the level of Aharon HaCohen. Moshe Rabbenu could not learn the depths of certain areas in Torah until Rabi Shimon Bar Yohai came and revealed the teachings to the world. The greatest of Torah's hidden fundamentals and secrets were revealed by him alone. Rabi Akiva loved him, called him his son, and told him, *It is sufficient for you that I and the Creator both recognize your spirit (Sanhedrin)*. Rabi Shimon Bar Yohai learned Torah from Rabi Akiva even during difficult times. 'Sifri' (*Medrash Halacha for Bamidbar and Devarim*) is by default the words of Rabi Shimon Bar Yohai, consisting of what he had learned from Rabi Akiva. When the Romans decreed that Rabi Shimon Bar Yohai deserved the death penalty, he first tried to hide in the Bet Midrash of his son, Rabi Elazar, but when that didn't work, he hid in a cave for twelve years. Through a miracle, he gained sustenance from a Carob tree that grew in the cave for him, and water flowed for him as well. In order that his clothes would not wear out, he wore them only during prayers. All the while he was in hiding, he learnt Torah and distanced completely from all worldly matters. He was a shield of protection for his generation. Rashbi passed away on the 33<sup>rd</sup> of the Omer (18 Iyar) and was buried in Miron. Praying by his grave, as many do, especially on the 33<sup>rd</sup> of the Omer, brings great protection and heavenly assistance directly from Hashem. May his great memory and merits shield and protect us, Amen.

#### **Insights on Pirkei Avot**

***You do not know the rewards given for Mitzvot*** Hashem does not owe anyone anything, as even our mere existence is completely due to His kindness. We do not deserve anything at all. Therefore, it says here that we are *given* rewards, not *paid* with rewards, for they are not rewards paid due to us for our actions, rather they are a

completely free gift, for even if we fulfill Mitzvot we are not owed anything from Hashem, as even everything we already have is a gift, and anything we receive further is likewise a free gift from Hashem as well.

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

Domitian, brother of Titus who destroyed the Bet Hamikdash, wanted to kill all surviving members of the Davidic Dynasty, so as to remove any hope of redemption from the hearts of Jews. He sent his army general Turnus Rufus to completely demolish anything left of the Bet Hamikdash, on the 9<sup>th</sup> of Av, 16 years after its destruction. That day he decreed the death of Raban Gamliel who was a descendant of the Davidic Dynasty. When a Roman soldier came to collect Raban Gamliel, he escaped. The soldier then found Raban Gamliel and approached with stealth so that he would not escape again. However, the soldier asked Raban Gamliel, "If I save you, will I merit a portion in Olam Haba?" When Raban Gamliel promised him a portion in Olam Haba, the soldier jumped off the roof to his death. In those days, if a soldier died while carrying out a decree, then the decree was annulled, the death being a sign that the decree should be voided. A heavenly voice then declared that this soldier had indeed merited a portion in Olam Haba.

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

Be careful when ingesting vinegar or lemon juice, as they can cause the tooth enamel coating to erode, which is irreparable damage. They can be added in moderation to food, but not to drink in heavy concentration with only little water, only with plenty of water. When a person has a tooth extracted, the doctor discusses various options to replace the missing tooth. Usually such a person will be happy to run from the dentist's chair, and will advise the doctor: "I'll think about it." To himself, he thinks: "What's the problem? One less tooth to worry about? Not terrible. Probably the doctor just wants to make a profit on me, but now I am too busy and can't afford it," and so the matter is postponed indefinitely. However, it should be noted that if a tooth is missing, it can sometimes cause a chain of problems due to the displacement of adjacent teeth, as well as periodontal problems, etc. It is therefore important to consider that if

problems do eventually occur over time, it will then be difficult to restore the teeth back to their previous condition.

### **Mussar: Holiness of the Eyes**

Our eyes are of the most important limbs within our bodies. One must sanctify his eyes and retain their holiness. One must be very cautious when he walks in the street, and should look away if he is tempted to glance at things that will desecrate his spiritual eyes. Women who dress immodestly are considered from the army of the evil Bilam. Bilam had advised King Balak to send the daughters of Moav to entice Bnei Yisrael and cause them to sin. That scheme for impurity and sources of unholy enticement exists stronger than everp today. **“Do not turn after your hearts and eyes”** *Yeshaya Hanavi* addresses the issues concerning immodesty being performed in public and explains that ministering angels who descend to this world in order to perform certain tasks, upon seeing women not dressed properly, begin to cry and scream to Hashem, and request that He immediately punish those women for leading men to sin because of them! Therefore, all should ask Hashem for mercy, especially when leaving the house, kiss the Mezuzah and pray that He saves you from the constant dangers that threaten men. If you pray with tears over this matter, you are on the level of ministering angels! One who glances at these women in the street is damaging and dirtying his soul with wounds and stains which are extreme, and are very hard to remove. Fear Hashem and guard your eyes. May Hashem watch over us, Amen. (*Rav Nachman*)

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

For many years the residents of Jerusalem had not known a winter as harsh as the winter they experienced in 1787. The freezing cold and intense storms imprisoned all the city's residents in their homes. The snow piled up in heaps, until the doorways were covered up and sealed frozen shut. Shabbat arrived after three days of snowstorms, and all the people of Jerusalem were unable to even go to Shul. Without a Torah scroll and without a Minyan, all prayed in their homes to the best of their ability. But there was one figure walking around the alleys of the city, trudging through the depths of the snow, slowly working his

way forward. From window to window the character moved, whispering to the neighbors and moving on. From all sides, doors suddenly seemed to push open slowly. As the snow was pushed away, well-wrapped men came out of their homes and marched towards the Bet El Yeshiva. Rabbi Yom Tov managed to collect almost three Minyanim of men from the warmth and seclusion of their homes. The voices of Shabbat prayers rose and intensified over the silence of the snow, proving to all: nothing can stop us, neither snow nor wind. The merit of the righteous stood with Jerusalem on that day, and the prayers of Shabbat did not cease.

### **Story**

Jacob the young orphan ignored his mother's pleas to forget the money and return safely home. He forged forward and entered the cold waters, embracing the sudden chill that raced through his body. He recited Tehillim, learned Mishnayot from memory, and observed his quiet and serene surroundings, calm and collected. His mother stood by the banks of the river, still pleading with him to reconsider, but he just reassured her through clenched teeth and frosty breath that all will be well in the end. Occasionally he would see the bakery owner emerge from his warm house, gaze into the river, and venture back inside. Suddenly Jacob's mother disappeared as if she had been swallowed into the river's soil. Jacob called out to her, but the echo of his voice was swallowed up by the noises from the flowing river waters. He refused to believe she had left him. An hour later the mother returned, her arms filled with wood and a burning torch. She placed the pieces of wood as close as possible to the water and piled a handful of twigs on them. She then placed the torch upon the pile and set it on fire. She said to her son, “Here Jacob, this should at least ease your pain, as the fire will warm the water closest to you and it will no longer be as terribly cold.”

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

**1** – How does one pray a second Amidah to make up for a missed prayer? If one missed Shaharit, he first prays Minha as usual, then when done praying Minha, he immediately recites Ashre and begins Amidah for Shaharit. If one missed Minha, he first prays Arbit, waits the short amount of time it takes to walk 4 Amot, (does not say Ashre), and then

recites Amidah for Minha. If one did not pray Arbit, he prays Shaharit as usual, then afterwards recites Ashre, and immediately recites Amidah for Arbit. One is not allowed to eat until he makes up the missed prayer.

2 – One can only make up a prayer if done so in the following prayer, however, if one misses a prayer and does not make it up immediately in the following prayer, then he can no longer make it up in the next prayer.

#### **Laws:**

1 – If one is unsure if he already made a blessing on the food he is eating, he does not recite a blessing now, and he can continue eating, since reciting blessings on food is rabbinical, and when in doubt regarding rabbinical commandments one is supposed to be lenient.

2 – However, if one is unsure if he recited Birkat HaMazon, then he must recite it nonetheless, because Birkat HaMazon is a Biblical commandment and one is therefore supposed to be strict when in doubt.

3 – If one is unsure if he recited Beracha Acharona, he does not recite it again. If one can eat enough now to require him to recite Beracha Acharona so that he could have the first eating in mind as well, then he will be blessed for his efforts. This is all in regards to if he is unsure if he recited Beracha Acharona, however, if one is unsure if he ate enough to require a Beracha Acharona in the first place, he does not have to be strict and eat more just to be certain that he ate enough.

#### **Sponsors**

\*\*\* **Mr. Aharon Kamo, his wife Farha, and their children.** Blessings and success for the entire family, Refuah Shelemah for **Rabbi Aharon Farhi**, may he have a speedy recovery back to full strength and health for the whole family, Amen. \*\*\* **Mrs. Sophie Moghrabi and her children.** Blessings and success for the entire family, Amen. \*\*\* **Mr. David Kabariti, his wife, and their children.** Blessings and success for the entire family, Leilui Nishmat **Yaakov Ben Badia Swed a”h**, Amen. \*\*\* **Blessed siblings: Albir, Nissim, Julia, Sofia, and Norma of the Kassab Family.** Blessings and success for the entire family, Leilui Nishmat their mother **Odette Bat Shafikah a”h**, Amen.

\*\*\* **Blessed siblings of the Hasbani Family.** Blessings and success for the entire family, Leilui Nishmat their mother **Rachel Bat Sarah a”h**, Amen. \*\*\* **Mr. Eli Levy, his wife Becky, and their children.** Blessings, health, and success for the entire family, Mazal Tov Mabrouk, 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. 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 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. Toufic Shakalo, his wife Lezett, and their children.** Blessings and success for the entire family, Leilui Nishmat his mother **Sarah Bat Simcha a”h**, Amen.

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*This week sponsorship total \$900.*

*Weekly expenditures total \$1300.*

*Tizku L'Mitzvot, Amen!*

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