

Congregation

◆◆◆"Beth Yosef"◆◆◆

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

Rabbi Aharon Farhi

Parashat Chaya Sara

27th Cheshvan 5781

Mr. Eliyahu Levy, President

Maqam Hijaz Haftarat V'Hamelech David

Issue #913

November 14th 2020

*Candle Lighting 4:21pm * Shekiah 4:39pm * Shir Hashirim 4:15pm followed by Minha Friday Night Shahrarit Shabbat 8:15am * Minha Shabbat 4:05pm * Shabbat Ends 5:20pm & Rabbenu Tam 5:50pm*

*Time for Talit 5:43am * Seasonal Hour 59:00 * Alot Hashahar 5:31am * Netz Hachama 6:42am*

*Weekday Minha 4:20pm * Earliest Time for Arbit 4:01pm * Tzet Hacoachavim 5:15pm * Chatzot 11:40*

*Latest Time for Morning Keriat Shema 8:28am * Latest Time for Morning Amidah 9:27am*

Tuesday November 17th will be Rosh Hodesh Kislev

Please do not read this bulletin during Tefillah or Keriat Hatorah

From their father Terah, Avraham Avinu's brother Nahor, married to their brother Haran's daughter Milcah, had a son named Betuel. Betuel had two children, Rivka and Lavan. Sixty-five years earlier Avraham defied the world of idolatry, declared Hashem's exclusive sovereignty in the world, and survived being thrown into a fiery furnace. He destroyed his father Terah's idols, left his birthplace and family, and converted many people to the truth of Hashem. Now, Avraham's servant Eliezer finds Rivka suitable to be Yitzhak's wife by the well, gives her nose rings and jewelry, and follows her home with his ten camels laden with treasure. When he meets Betuel, Avraham's nephew, he speaks of his master's success, his riches, his livestock, his servants, and explains that Yitzhak would inherit all of it. If Rivka his daughter would come back with him to marry Yitzhak, she would be treated as royalty. What did Betuel try to do? He placed poison in Eliezer's food to make it look like the servant died of natural causes. Had it not been for the angel who came and switched the plates while they were talking, he would have succeeded in killing Eliezer, instead of eating the poison himself, which brought about his own early demise. But why did he conspire to do this? What did he have to gain from killing Eliezer? He already received ten camels laden with treasure as a gift for allowing Rivka to marry Yitzhak? The motivation: greed. Ten camels was not enough. Betuel wanted Avraham to have to send a new servant in order

to bring Rivka to Yitzhak, who would come with ten more camels laden with treasure, thus doubling his prize. Such is the twisted thought process of greedy money hungry crooks, and such is their downfall. We must learn from those who are extreme in their evil character how not to be. We must analyze our thoughts and actions on a daily basis: what is motivating our thoughts and actions? Do we have any resemblance at all to Lavan and Betuel? Do we justify wrongdoing in gray areas so that we can benefit financially or for any other personal benefit? We must uproot any speck of "Betuel" that is in our system, and recognize any selfishness and desire for what it truly is and purge it from our system. We need to care for others, help others, be concerned for others, and stop being self-centered and uncaring. How can we gain in this world and in the next world? Not by acting in callous ways motivated by selfishness, but by reaching out and helping one another in any way possible. May Hashem watch over us, Amen.

Insights on the Parasha

Story about Maarat Hamachpelah: In 1376, during R' Petahia's visit to Hebron, he gave a gold coin to the one who held the key to the cave, and descended down to the burial site of our patriarchs. He came upon three graves, which he knew were fake, placed there intentionally by Arabs to trick the Jews into thinking those were the graves of our patriarchs. He asked the gatekeeper if he could

grant him access to enter even further into the cave. The attendant explained that to his knowledge nobody in recent history was allowed access that far into the cave. R' Petahia gave him another gold coin, and he granted him further access. He descended down to the stone floor, the area opening wide before him, but the next gateway was sealed shut with very thick unearthly iron chains, manufactured perhaps by angels. As he approached closer, strong winds, seemingly coming from the cracks in the walls, pushed him back, away from the gateway. His candles blew out, and he understood that behind those doors were our holy patriarchs. He prayed a quick and short prayer at that spot, with trepidation and great concentration, and after only a few moments, as the wind began pushing him back even further, he turned around and left in peace.

Rishon LeSion:

R' Rephael Hazzan ztl 1741-1821

Grandfather of Gaon R' Chaim Palagi

When the Rishon LeSion R' Yaakov Koral passed away, student of Rishon LeSion R' Yaakov Ayash, the people of Jerusalem began searching for a suitable replacement. They heard about a Hacham living in Hebron, the land of our patriarchs, who came from Izmir Turkey and was a great scholar whose reputation spread throughout the world. However, he was already close to eighty years old. Despite his advanced age, they decided he would be the best choice for the position of Rishon LeSion. They sent an honorable delegation of Sages to Hebron to appoint R' Hazzan as Rishon LeSion. Since we mentioned his grandson R' Chaim Palagi, here is a short story: In Izmir, a wealthy man passed away. Within thirty days, he visited R' Chaim in a dream dressed in fine clothing with a shining face. He was rewarded in Gan Eden for always treating his servants with honor and respect, and he asked R' Chaim to please check on them the following day, to make sure they were being treated fairly and respectfully, as he was accustomed to do while he was alive.

History in Brief

35 years after the Temple's destruction, in the year 103AD. Raban Gamliel passed away and

Rabi Elazar Ben Azariah took his place. Rabi Eliezer Ben Horkenos had never been pardoned by the Sages to ensure that arguments would not reignite in the nation. After about ten years, Rabi Eliezer Ben Horkenos became sick. On a Friday afternoon, he called his son Horkenos to his bedside and taught him great secrets in Torah. At first Horkenos did not accept, thinking that his father was not thinking straight due to his illness. When he reached the secrets of the Avne Shesh mixed with heavenly waters, he began crying and explained that if he would reveal the secrets to his son, then his son would not be able to receive it and perish trying. He instructed his son to tell his mother, Ima Shalom, the sister of Raban Gamliel, to take his Tefillin and place them in a high place so that people would not see them, and he would be able to find them when he returned. At that moment, the Sages, Rabi Akiva and his colleagues, came to visit him. Rabi Eliezer instructed his son to tell his mother to light the Shabbat candles. He then asked the Sages why they had come. They explained they wanted to learn Torah from him. He asked why they hadn't come all those years throughout the past decade, and they answered that they did not have the opportunity. He then cursed them for not visiting sooner. He revealed to Rabi Akiva that their deaths would be unnatural, with Rabi Akiva's death being the worst, as we know that his skin was combed with iron.

Health and Recovery

When a person suffers from orthopedic pain, especially due to cartilage damage, he should be careful not to perform physical activity that can potentially increase pain and damage until he first consults medical professionals and determines how to address his condition. Unfortunately, it is all too common for a person who experiences orthopedic pain to ignore it and think he could 'muscle through it'. This is very wrong. If a person has a problem with his knees, for example, and continues to go quickly down the stairs, or carry heavy weights, despite the pain and warning his body is sending to his attention, he is causing further damage instead of working towards a viable solution. If the doctor tells you to avoid certain physical activities, then listen to the doctor and don't over-exert yourself despite the

pain. If you are instructed to stay off your feet and rest, then do so. If you have neck pain, shoulder pain, back pain, knee pain, and the doctor instructs you to be careful, don't ignore his instruction! Perhaps in a matter of months, or even weeks, if given the chance to properly heal, your body can be fit once again to perform those activities. In the meantime, make smart choices and rest per the doctor's orders.

Mussar: *Overlooking Faults of Others*

Our Sages of blessed memory teach us that if you are quick to forgive others, Heaven will be quick to forgive you. The Maharam says: everyone knows about his sins, especially in this generation; our sins grow unfortunately each day. If we would need to fast for atonement then we would not be able to survive. If we would have pain of childrearing for atonement, we would ask that Hashem should watch over them. If we would gain atonement by lacking in sustenance, this would be the worst. We must gain atonement by forgiving others. Hashem has presented us with a simple and effective way to gain atonement. How evil and haughty one would seem if he does not take this opportunity and forgive others. If he is foolish enough to not forgive others and increase hatred, then he has doubled his sins. Take your opportunity and experience paradise on this world, Amen.

Story

R' Moshe, a Darshan during the summer months for a Yeshiva that was spending the season in the mountains, noticed that an unknown visitor was frequenting their Bet Midrash daily to learn Gemara. He looked quite different, with his longer hair, a large Yamulka, and humming of a pleasant tune as he learned Gemara. He looked like someone who not long ago returned to observance of Judaism. R' Moshe got up from his chair and began walking towards him to get a better look. As he learned, his face would brighten upon understanding the meaning of something. R' Moshe looked to see what it was that he was learning, and noticed that he had a Gemara equipped with English translation and commentary. Alas, he now appeared to not understand a certain point in the Gemara, despite the English elucidation. His eyebrows furrowed,

he began to rock uneasily, and finally he lifted his eyes to look for someone who could possibly help him understand. He noticed R' Moshe not far away, and decided to ask him for help. R' Moshe was more than happy to help him understand the Gemara, and explained until his eyes shone with comprehension.

Two Halachot: *Posek Rav Mordechai Eliyahu*

1 – A Chumash may be placed on top of a Sefer Neviim or Sefer Ketuvim. Sefer Neviim and Sefer Ketuvim may be placed on top of one another, but they may not be placed on top of a Chumash. One cannot throw any papers of holy work, even Halacha and Aggadah. If any holy works are upside-down, you should turn them right-side up. One should not use cloth to handle the Sefer Torah if it had been used for mundane purposes.

2 – One may never use a Sefer for personal purposes, i.e. to block the sun from your eyes, or to block your activities from prying eyes. If the sun is distracting your learning, you can use another Sefer to block the sun from your Sefer, since that is not done for your personal benefit, but only in order to learn Torah. Also, you can put another Sefer under the Sefer you are learning to perch it up while you are learning, but some are strict not to do this. Definitely do not place a paper in a Sefer for safekeeping.

Laws

1 – On bread fried in oil at least the size of a Kezayit, 28 grams, one recites Hamotzi and Birkat Hamazon. If it is less than a Kezayit, then one recites Mezonot and Al Hamichya, as even though it looks like bread, since it was fried it appears like it was cooked, not baked. If a Kezayit of bread was cooked in soup, even if it doesn't look like bread, one recites Hamotzi and Birkat Hamazon, but only if there's a Kezayit, otherwise if there's less than a Kezayit, even if it looks like bread, nonetheless one recites Mezonot and Al Hamichya

2 – This is true only if the bread was cooked in a Keli Rishon that is on the fire, however if it was cooked in a Keli Sheni, a pot that was off the fire, then it is not considered cooked, and then even if it's less than a Kezayit, one recites Hamotzi and Birkat Hamazon.

3 – If there was a Kezayit of bread during the frying or cooking, then even if it breaks later to less than a Kezayit, one still recites Hamotzi and Birkat Hamazon, since it was a Kezayit during the cooking or frying.

Sponsors

*** *The Family of Meyer Sutton a”h.* Blessings and success for the entire family, Amen. *** Hazzan *Mr. Eliezer Shrem, his wife Bella, and their children.* Blessings and success for the entire family, Mazal Tov to the bride and groom *Isaac and Joyce, Mabrouk, Amen.* *** *Mrs. Sarin Sabbagh and her children.* Blessings and success for the entire family, Amen. *** *R’ Simon Goldstein, his wife Simmy, and their children.* Blessings and success for the entire family, Amen. *** *The Janani Family.* Blessings and success for the entire family, Leilui Nishmat their father *Jack Yaakov Chaim Ben Sarah a”h,* Amen. *** *Mr. Shlomo Cohen, his wife Gila, and their children.* Blessings and success for the entire family, Leilui Nishmat his mother *Kourjie Yaffa Bat Simha a”h,* 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. *** *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. *** *Blessed*

siblings: Soly, Hillel, Arlett, and Sofia of the Bawabe Family. Blessings and success for the entire family, Leilui Nishmat their father *Yitzhak Zaki Ben Simcha 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. Mordechai Allaham HaCohen, his wife Lousett, and their children.* Blessings and success for the entire family, Mazal Tov to their son-in-law *Isaac Kbabie and his wife Berta on the birth of a baby, Mabrouk, Amen.* *** *Blessed siblings: Janet, Rachamim, Evon, David, and Yehoshua of the Houdrie Family.* Blessings and success for the entire family, Leilui Nishmat their father *Mordechai Ben Mazal a”h,* and Leilui Nishmat their brother *Avraham Ben Frieda a”h,* Amen. *** *Mr. Edward Cohen, his wife Kamo, and their children.* Blessings and success for the entire family, Mazal Tov to *Mr. Mordechai Allaham HaCohen and his wife Lousett* on the birth of a grandchild, Mabrouk, Amen.

This week’s sponsorship total is \$950. Weekly total cost of production and distribution is \$1300.

Tizku L’Mitzvot, Amen!

Since we launched our newly designed website in April 2020, there has been **23,100** visits!

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