

Congregation

◆◆◆"Beth Yosef"◆◆◆

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

**Rabbi Aharon Farhi**  
*Parashat Vayeshev*  
26<sup>th</sup> Kislev 5781

*Maqam Nahwand*  
Issue #917

**Mr. Eliyahu Levy, President**  
*Haftarat Roni VeSimhi*  
December 12<sup>th</sup> 2020

*Candle Lighting 4:10pm \* Shekiah 4:28pm \* Shir Hashirim 4:00pm followed by Minha Friday Night  
Shaharit Shabbat 8:15am \* Minha Shabbat 3:55pm \* Shabbat Ends 5:11pm & Rabbenu Tam 5:41pm  
Time for Talit 6:16am \* Seasonal Hour 55:00 \* Alot Hashahar 6:05am \* Netz Hachama 7:11am  
Weekday Minha 4:15pm \* Earliest Time for Arbit 3:57pm \* Tzet Hacoachavim 5:06pm \* Chatzot 11:49  
Latest Time for Morning Keriat Shema 8:50am \* Latest Time for Morning Amidah 9:45am*

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Please do not read this bulletin during Tefillah or Keriat Hatorah

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Although Yaakov Avinu was faced with many opponents and challenges throughout his lifetime, he was nonetheless always able to come out victorious from all situations. He dwelled in the house of Lavan for twenty years, and despite the trouble Lavan constantly gave Yaakov, he managed to survive and remain whole and pure. Yaakov was confronted by his brother Esav along with four hundred men at his side, and also fought against Esav's angel. Yaakov was able to survive time and again, as he represented holiness and purity, while his opponents represented impurity and corruption. What happened back then in history is constantly repeating itself throughout the generations. When Esav offered to travel alongside Yaakov and his family, Yaakov had instructed Esav to go ahead without him, as his children's young age would cause him to travel slower, and he didn't want to hold up Esav. To this day, we allow Esav to move on ahead, so that we can give proper attention and be able to focus on our children, our future generations. In this week's Parasha, Yaakov returns to his birthplace, settles down, and allows the challenges of his past to fade away. Yaakov dealt with the episode of Shechem and Dina, along with Shimon and Levi's retaliation on the city. Yaakov dealt with the passing of his dear wife Rachel. Now, he wished to finally live in peace. Alas, it was not meant to be, as he was suddenly faced with another tragedy: the loss of his beloved son Yosef. This challenge did not come from opponents. It did not come from his outside enemies - not Lavan, not Esav, not Shechem. This challenge came from within his boundaries, from his own children. Here begins the descent, the plunge from the safe place on high, to the depths of hurt and suffering, as Yosef was now descending down to Egypt. Baseless hatred fired up amongst brothers can destroy and cause suffering from within - achieving what opponents and enemies could not. Yaakov Avinu, ever so powerful against other challenges, even victorious when fighting against an angel, now encountered a terrible blow from his own family. He mourned for twenty years

over this loss. Both Yaakov and Yosef had experienced a meaningful dream - Yaakov dreamt on his way to Haran, while Yosef dreamt on his way to Egypt. The ladder in Yaakov's dream extended from the earth to the heaven, while the stalks of wheat, as well as the moon, sun, and stars in Yosef's dreams represented the earth and heaven. Within our nation, we must always extend from the earth, towards the heavens, in order to be able to rise to great heights. We must distance ourselves from baseless hatred, as it is a terrible poison that can drag us down and cause immeasurable damage internally. We must strive to work together, to unite, to love one another and care for one another, to pray for each other, and to be happy for your fellow. We are all one family, one unit - when one of us hurts, we all hurt. If we bring each other closer to Hashem, we're directly helping ourselves! May Hashem watch over us, Amen.

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

**1** – Reuven suggested that the brothers throw Yosef into the pit, so that Reuven can secretly return later and save him. How is this plan supposed to work? Yosef was being thrown into a pit filled with poisonous snakes and scorpions? The Zohar explains: Reuven wished to switch up the situation, to create the opportunity for Yosef's rescue. Yosef was currently at the mercy of his brothers, who possessed choice of action. If he turned things around to remove the element of choice, by removing the brothers, and left the situation completely in the hands of heaven, then he was sure that a miracle would transpire and Yosef would be saved from danger. With his brothers, however, he was facing a terrible risk that they might make the wrong decision.

**2** – *They hated him and could not speak in peace.* It is natural that while a hater keeps the hate in his heart and does not let it out, that he will continue to hate, however, if he will speak to his friend and verbalize what is in his heart, he will find reasons to apologize, confess, regret, and make sure that it no longer

matters. The hatred would then simply go away and disappear until it no longer has an impression. For this reason, the Torah commands: You shall not hate your brother in your heart, i.e. do not incite and harbor hatred in your heart alone, but rather let it out, explain yourself to your colleague, and tell him about your anger. Release what you have in your heart over him. Regarding Yosef it was written: *They hated him and could not speak in peace.* They did not allow an opportunity of a dialogue that could bring about peace and nullify the hatred, but rather they harbored their hatred in their hearts, and from that point they reached the level to sell him and even justified killing him. (*Tiferet Yehonatan*)

### **Rishon LeSion: R' Yom Tov Danon 1742-1825**

During the times of war, when Jerusalem was under the control of the Turkey ruler Abdullah, the Jews were taxed heavily to pay one thousand Lirat to cover the costs of battle. As a result, the Jews were poor and hungry. To make matters worse, that year there was a famine, and the Turkish soldiers ate whatever they could find in the fields, leaving the Jews with literally nothing to eat, and definitely unable to pay the outrageously inflated prices in the markets. R' Yom Tov therefore sent messengers to other countries to ask their brethren to help out the Jews in Israel. There was a peaceful disagreement between the Rishon LeSion R' Yom Tov Danon and R' Eliezer Hazzan son of R' Rephael Hazzan, the previous Rishon LeSion. They wished to go to a Bet Din, but who would be capable to pass a judgment against either of these two? They searched for a judge but could not find one. R' Yom Tov then raised his hands upwards and declared that if they could not find someone to pass judgment then heaven would decide for them. When the righteous declares, heaven fulfills. On Erev Tisha B'Av in 1823, the Chevra Kadisha was called to the bed of R' Eliezer Hazzan who was deathly ill.

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

*25 years after the Temple's destruction, in the year 93AD.* Rabi Akiva learned Torah from the great Tana Nahum Ish Gamzu for twenty-two years. From him he learned the famous line of Mussar: "All that Hashem does is for the best." He also learned Torah from Rabi Tarfon HaCohen. Who was Rabi Tarfon? He was a student of Bet Shamai, but also acquired Halachot from the mouth of Rabi Yochanan Ben Zakai who had been a student of Hillel Hazaken. Initially, anyone who wished to side with either Bet Shamai or Bet Hillel was allowed to choose, until a Bat Kol, a heavenly voice, declared that the Halacha sides with Bet Hillel, and all who follow Bet Shamai, even

stringently, is deserving of the penalty of death by the hand of heaven. The Sages compared Rabi Tarfon to a pile of walnuts. Why? Just as a pile of walnuts, when one walnut is removed it causes all the rest to stir and scatter around, falling all over one another, so too when a Talmid asks something of Rabi Tarfon, suddenly Rabi Tarfon brings forth proofs and explanations from numerous Pesukim, Mishnayot, Gemarot, Midrashim, Aggadot, and showers the Talmid with blessings of Torah knowledge. Rabi Tarfon was tall and long, titled by many as the Rebbe of the whole nation, and was the main Rebbe of Rabi Yossi Haglili. Rabi Akiva called Rabi Tarfon the expert of Bet Din, who was vigilant in Torah, Avodah, and Chesed. During a famine, Rabi Tarfon sanctified 300 women without completely marrying them so that he would be able to support them with Terumah as he was a Cohen and they would then be considered his wives eligible to eat Terumah, which saved their lives.

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

The Ben Ish Hai explains that sleep is most beneficial for the body, mind, and soul during the first half of the night, much more effective than sleep during the second half of the night. This has even been proven medically. Unfortunately, people today would much rather go to sleep later than earlier, enjoying the evening rather than waking up earlier in the morning refreshed and energized. Alas, so many think that 11:00pm is an opportunity to potentially catch up on the day's remaining workload. The Chafetz Chaim would go to the Yeshiva at a late hour of the evening and tell the Talmidim to go to sleep, having mercy on their health and wellbeing, especially the weaker students. In many ways, taking proper care of the physical can be more important than spiritual service, since without the physical you cannot perform the spiritual. For example, when a father once told the Chafetz Chaim that his son wakes up very early every morning in order to learn before Shaharit prayers, the Chafetz Chaim told him to dissuade his son from continuing to do so. Why? Because the benefit is limited. With the proper amount of sleep, one can live longer, healthier, and spend many years learning Torah. It isn't worth it to waste the body away early without taking the proper care now – it is so much more worth it to retain one's strength for years to come by responsibly sleeping on time and the correct number of hours, for then he will ultimately learn many more hours of Torah with greater quality.

### ***Mussar: Coronavirus Disease***

As we approach the holiday of Chanukah, Be'ezrat HaShem, we celebrate and commemorate once again

the great miracles that were performed for our ancestors in those days, as well as the miracles we experience during our times as well. As the Coronavirus spreads once again throughout the world, spreading sickness and darkness without discrimination, we are not afraid of only the actual disease, but rather the effects of the spread, such as the fear, uncertainty, stress, and pressure. Medical professionals throughout the world are noticing and remarking upon certain sicknesses that have no actual connection to the Coronavirus disease, and yet indirectly it is responsible for the outcomes. Those who arrive at the hospital in need of emergency medical attention must first be tested for the disease before receiving treatment. These delays are serious in many circumstances. Doctors need to change their clothing often, wear extra protective gear, and make do without enough resources and assistance. Those who read the news constantly keep reminding themselves about the worst cases and terrible outlook of the situation, which causes depression and weakness. An elderly Torah scholar tested positive for Coronavirus and yet Baruch Hashem in due course he became healthy and strong again. They asked him how he was able to recover at his advanced age, to which he replied that he kept internalizing the Pasuk that one should always remember that Hashem is the one who gives strength. We too must internalize this Pasuk and its important message. We must have complete faith in our Father in heaven, for He is the ultimate trusted and merciful healer. In the merit of the lights of Chanukah, may we merit the light of health and strength, without fear or doubt, and may Hashem heal all those who are sick, Amen.

#### **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 immodestly and cause them to sin. That scheme for impurity and that source of unholy enticement exists still 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 out and scream to Hashem, requesting 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*)

#### **Story**

When R' Moshe noticed the Baal Teshuvah guest in the Bet Midrash looking very down with a fallen face, he came over to appease him, and told him this story to help him: In Italy, before the second world war, lived a non-Jew named Toscillillo, a man of great talent who was the principal conductor of the Italian philharmonic orchestra. Dozens of musicians played under his authority. He would write all the music himself, and with his sharp and sensitive ears it was his responsibility to make sure all musicians played their parts correctly. If anyone was off key or out of rhythm, he would be the one to point it out and correct the imbalance in the music. Such was his awesome duty and obligation. He was very unique and famous. When the war broke out and Italy joined the side of Nazi Germany, he left Italy and traveled to America. He was immediately recognized in America for his unique talent and was given a similar position as conductor of an orchestra. Millions of Americans enjoyed his artistic works and he was successful until he passed away at the ripe old age of ninety. During his last years, even though he was weak and frail, his fans and audience still recognized him, visited him, and wished him well. During that last period of his life, an author came to him wishing to write a biography to celebrate the story of his artistic musical life.

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

**1** – Anger is a terrible characteristic that one should completely distance from as much as possible. Don't allow yourself to feel angry even if it can be justified. If you need to show authority and cause others to respect you in awe, then just appear angry without actually having any feelings.

**2** – Our Sages teach us: Getting angry is tantamount to idolatry, in which all manners of Gehinam are used as punishment. One who gets angry does not enjoy life. Therefore, learn to distance from any form of anger to the point that your feelings do not react at all to trigger situations. Hear the insult but just let it pass, see the issue but don't let it in. This is the path to goodness.

### Laws

**1** – A borrower may find and return the lost object of the lender, as this is a Mitzvah and not considered interest on the loan.

**2** – An author of a Sefer who borrows money to publish his book with the intention to pay back the lender, cannot thank the lender by writing his name in the book, as this would be considered interest.

**3** – A father that promises a total sum as a dowry to the future husband of his daughter, with the condition that it would be paid in installments over the coming years, with an additional condition that if he is late on a payment it will increase, this is not considered interest, because all conditions have been established before he had any obligation to pay anything. However, if the agreement has already been established without the condition, then it can no longer be stipulated without a Shtar Iska.

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success for the entire family, Leilui Nishmat their father **Hacham Avraham Zaafrani Ben Latifeh a”h, Amen.** \*\*\* **Mr. Yosef Alkada, his wife Vicky, and their children.** Blessings and success for the entire family, Refuah Shelemah to his father the Baal Koreh **Nouriel Ben Rosa** and his mother **Rachel Bat Latifeh,** may they be blessed with health, Amen. \*\*\* **Mrs. Stella Katash and her son Victor.** Blessings and success for the entire family, Leilui Nishmat his father **Jack Swed Ben Badia a”h, Amen.** \*\*\* **Mrs. Paula Guindi Tawil, her husband Jimmy, and their children.** Blessings and success for the entire family, Leilui Nishmat her grandfather **Rachamim Ben Rosa a”h,** and Leilui Nishmat her grandmother **Pauline Bat Esther (Tera) 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 **Yitzchak 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,** and Leilui Nishmat his mother **Linda Bat Sarah a”h, Amen.**

*This week's sponsorship total is \$1600. Weekly total cost of production and distribution is \$1300. Tizku L'Mitzvot, Amen!*

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