

Congregation

◆◆◆"Beth Yosef"◆◆◆

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

Rabbi Aharon Farhi

Parashat Miketz

4th Tevet 5781

Mr. Eliyahu Levy, President

Haftarat Vayikatz Shelomo

December 19th 2020

Maqam Siga

Issue #918

*Candle Lighting 4:12pm * Shekiah 4:30pm * Shir Hashirim 4:00pm followed by Minha Friday Night Shahrarit Shabbat 8:15am * Minha Shabbat 3:55pm * Shabbat Ends 5:13pm & Rabbenu Tam 5:43pm*

*Time for Talit 6:21am * Seasonal Hour 55:00 * Alot Hashahar 6:10am * Netz Hachama 7:16am*

*Weekday Minha 4:15pm * Earliest Time for Arbit 4:02pm * Tzet Hacoachavim 5:08pm * Chatzot 11:53*

*Latest Time for Morning Keriat Shema 8:55am * Latest Time for Morning Amidah 9:50am*

***The fast of the 10th of Tevet will be Friday December 25th
Fast begins 6:13am and ends 5:00pm, for the strict 5:12pm***

Sponsored by: Mr. Harry Adjmi, his wife Aliza, and their children. Blessings and success for the entire family, Mazal Tov to the father of the groom **Rabbi Isaac Yedid HaLevi and his wife Frieda**, and Mazal Tov to the bride and groom **Joey and Sarah**, Mabrouk, Amen.

Please do not read this bulletin during Tefillah or Keriat Hatorah

This week, in Parashat Miketz, we read about the dreams of Pharaoh, in which weaker cows seemed to overpower stronger cows, and weaker stalks of wheat seemed to overpower stronger stalks of wheat. The whole purpose for these strange dreams was in order to extricate Yosef from the dungeon pits of Egypt and instead place him in the exalted position that he would occupy until his passing. Pharaoh had first called all of his best advisors to help explain the dreams that he had experienced, but they were of no help. The Midrash states that although they gave explanations to Pharaoh for the dreams, his ears were closed to them. Hashem wanted Pharaoh to first allow everyone else a chance before Yosef came and spoke of the true meaning, so that nobody could later complain: *had we been given a chance we would have said the same thing ourselves.* Where was Yosef brought from? He had been locked away in jail for twelve years, when suddenly without warning he was cleaned up from the years of filth and long hair growth, brought before the Pharaoh, and within a short time he was the second in command over the entire Egypt, a great world power at the time! Our Sages teach us from here that the righteous and in fact our nation as a whole can and will be saved from everything and will be granted salvation in the blink of an eye without any warning or indication of a future turn of events! Mordechai HaTzaddik went from a state of mourning,

sackcloth, dust, ashes, fasting, and crying suddenly to a state of great honor and prestige, as he was led through the capitol by his enemy, on the king's horse, dressed in royalty! The Jewish people were suddenly granted great salvation in those times, without warning and amidst thoughts that they were about to be eradicated and annihilated. During the exile of Egypt, we were suffering terribly without salvation in any visible range. We had been worked very hard, with excruciating and backbreaking labor, every single day for many years. Suddenly, we were redeemed and salvation arrived for our nation once again. Our future redemption will follow in the same suit. From within terrible troubles and sufferings we will suddenly be rescued and redeemed. Yosef was taken out from the pits of the dungeons in order to be the second in command to Pharaoh in Egypt! Not only that, the Pasuk clearly states that they rushed him to quickly stand him before Pharaoh! Purim as well includes this idea, as Haman was rushed to the party of Esther, which was a great turning point in the story and almost the end of both Haman and our troubles for the time being. We were rushed out of Egypt as well when we were redeemed. If we stop for a moment to understand our history and involvements, and connect our current situations and truths with that of the past, we might realize what is yet to come. Very soon and suddenly Hashem is going to redeem us and we will be united in peace and

complete servitude and loyalty towards Hashem, with the coming of Mashiach, quickly in our days, Amen!

Insights on the Parasha

1 – The Parasha discusses *Miketz*, the end of a specific period of time. Our Sages of blessed memory teach us: This Pasuk can be understood as a great lesson for life. When a person reaches the end of his life and is scheduled to stand before the heavenly courts in judgment, the years of his life are reviewed and considered as if they were but a short period of time. The only worthwhile timeframes in life are the ones spent serving Hashem, learning, praying, and fulfilling the Mitzvot. This total number of time usually equals a significant amount less than the total years of one's lifetime. The Gemara compares this lifetime to a dream, like a fleeting shadow – not even like the shadow of a wall or other stationary object that creates a shadow and continuously moves past throughout the day, but like the shadow of a bird flying by for just a quick moment. We must value every moment and take advantage of our opportunities.

2 – *Yosef recalled the dreams... so he said to them "You are spies!"* How could Yosef hold back his brothers for three days from Yaakov and his family when there is a famine and they may be starving? The *Chatam Sofer* answers: We know that Yaakov still had food, since before he sent the brothers, he told them *Why do you make yourselves conspicuous*, teaching us that they indeed had food. Yosef knew they had food because his first dream was about wheat, which he interpreted to mean that they still had food. He remembered the dreams – understood they still had food – and claimed they were spies, thus holding them up without worry of any food shortage back home.

Rishon LeSion: R' Yom Tov Danon 1742-1825

One time, when the Rishon LeSion R' Yom Tov Danon and R' Eliezer Hazzan son of R' Rephael Hazzan, the previous Rishon LeSion, had a disagreement about something, they wished to go to a Bet Din, but after searching for a judge they found none who were capable to pass judgment for them, so R' Yom Tov raised his hands upwards and declared that heaven should intervene and pass judgment for them. When the righteous declares, heaven fulfills. On Erev Tisha B'Av in 1825, the Chevra Kadisha was called to the bed of R' Eliezer Hazzan who had become deathly ill. It was clear that he had very little time left in this world. He suddenly opened his eyes and asked if R' Yom Tov had passed away. Those around the bed were shaken by the question, but at that moment news came to them that indeed The Rishon LeSion R' Yom Tov Danon had passed away.

R' Eliezer then recited Shema, closed his eyes, and his soul returned to heaven. Both great righteous men ascended to heaven together to stand in judgment before the heavenly court, who would now rule in their case. The righteous are even greater after their passing. May their merits protect us, Amen.

History in Brief

25 years after the Temple's destruction, in the year 93AD. Rabi Tarfon, who was a great giant in Torah, lived a life of suffering and pain. His wife passed away and left him alone to raise their small children. After her burial, he asked her sister to marry him in order to help raise her sister's children. She agreed, they married right away, but he did not touch her until after the Sheloshim, 30 days after his wife's passing. Why did she pass away? It was because of the words he chose. When he wished to validate his words, he would say something extreme, like 'May my children pass away if I am not speaking truthfully'. It did not matter that his words were indeed the truth; when the righteous speaks, they make a deep impression in the world. We are forbidden from speaking negative or ill of anyone or anything. Once, as he was eating dates from his own field, his sharecropper thought he was a thief, so he hit him very hard, placed him in a sack, and flung him over his shoulder to deposit him into the river. When Rabi Tarfon realized what was happening, he didn't tell the sharecropper who he was, rather he told himself, "Woe to you Tarfon, for he is going to kill you." When the sharecropper heard his words, he realized his terrible mistake, placed the sack on the ground, opened it, tore his clothing in pain, and begged for forgiveness. All his life Rabi Tarfon was bothered by the fact that he had perhaps been saved from the honor of Torah, and that he had misused the crown of Torah to his benefit, to be saved from death.

Health and Recovery

Between the ages of 18-22, the body finalizes its growth process. Sleeping properly and living a healthy lifestyle during those years can directly affect the rest of your life. Sleeping earlier and waking early will give the body the strength and energy it needs to finalize its growth into a mature and healthy adult. Sleep on your left side, straightening your upper body, not bending it like a half moon. Make sure to use a good pillow that raises your head comfortably. Vitamin D helps bone growth. Smoking cigarettes and tobacco is very damaging to the health of the body. All medical professionals warn that the negative effects to the heart, lungs, liver, kidneys, and all areas of the body can be terribly detrimental and eventually fatal. Be smart and distance from smoking. Don't try

it, don't think about it, it will only lead to damage and problems. If you are already smoking, it will be a challenge, but you must immediately reduce how much you smoke each day. If you smoke 10 a day, for a week only smoke 9. The following week reduce it to 8, and then the next week reduce it to 7, all in stride, helping your body slowly adjust to less over time. The body naturally does not need to smoke cigarettes, and it can be trained to once again not rely on cigarettes. The ultimate goal is to completely stop smoking over time, and never again pick up another cigarette. Protect your health so you can live a better life.

Mussar: *Derech Eretz*

Derech Eretz is beloved before Hashem, for nothing can continue in existence without it. One who lacks this important feature and characteristic is worthless, lost in the desert and wilderness. One who possesses this attribute is praised and exalted above in heaven and below on earth. Even the Torah is glorified through him, for Torah clings to Hashem only if it was learnt with Derech Eretz. One who lacks in this area cannot dwell among man, for nobody will consider his words or actions seriously, or will even be worth their time. What is Derech Eretz? This character trait includes fear of heaven before Hashem, acting with humbleness, selflessness, and speaking softly with people. With Derech Eretz one will find himself successful with his actions, words, eating, drinking, dress code, and business decisions. The most supreme level of Derech Eretz is to know, understand, and recognize that Hashem is the One Who created you and everything else from nothing, constantly does everything within His creation, is the only One Who deserves the credit, and we therefore must perform all His commandments to perfection, cling to His Torah, and be joyous and happy always. *Derech Eretz precedes Torah* – every Sefer has an introduction. The introduction for the Torah is Derech Eretz. Perform Derech Eretz by respecting your parents who worked so hard for you, and still constantly work hard on you, in order to establish you as the person you are today, and the great person you will one day become. Do kindness for the rich, poor, living, and deceased, for continued existence depends on kindness and care, regardless of the person in need. Pray in Shul with the congregation on time and recite Shema in its proper time, for then Hashem will accept your prayers, which will be a great benefit for everyone, Amen.

Story

R' Moshe was trying to appease the Baal Teshuvah guest in the Bet Midrash who was very down with a fallen face because he would never be as learned in

Torah as many others. R' Moshe began telling him the story about Toscellillo, an Italian man of great talent who was the primary conductor of the Italian philharmonic orchestra, who had moved to America during World War 2 where he was immediately recognized 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 of life, an author expressed his wish to write a biography about him, to celebrate the story of his artistic musical life. They spent many hours together over many days talking, discussing, asking and answering all sorts of questions in order to uncover the full story and compose a literary work that will properly outline and highlight all the important details of his colorful life in brevity. During those days, the author called Toscellillo and asked if he could visit one evening in order to continue their work, but his request was denied. The great artist was expecting a phone call from an established student of many years ago with whom he had worked to develop in musical talent, and he wished to follow up on her progress in following his teachings throughout the years. He would be uninterrupted during that evening. The author asked if he could perhaps just sit over to the side and witness this great scene as he conversed with his student, but this request was denied as well. The great artist made up his mind. He had answered many questions, but now it was time to remain silent.

Two Halachot: *Posek Rav Mordechai Eliyahu*

- 1** – A person should practice silence, and only speak words of Torah, or only words that are necessary for his needs in life.
- 2** – Even when speaking regarding ones needs, do not speak any extra words, in order to distance from sin, as our Sages of blessed memory teach us: there is nothing better for a person than silence. Rava teaches us: Life and death are both in the power of the tongue.

Laws: *Brit Milah*

- 1** – If the baby was not healthy enough to have the Milah on the eighth day, and then the baby becomes healthy afterwards, the baby cannot be circumcised on Thursday, Friday, or Shabbat, since the baby might become sick from the circumcision within three days and cause one to desecrate Shabbat. Therefore, the Milah is then performed on Sunday, Monday, Tuesday, or Wednesday.
- 2** – The previous law only applies to Shabbat or Yom Kippur, but not to Yom Tov. Therefore, the Milah may take place even within three days of a Yom Tov.

3 – A convert may only be circumcised on Sunday, Monday, Tuesday, or Wednesday.

4 – A reform convert may not be circumcised at all, as a convert is only considered a convert if he accepts all the Halachot correctly.

5 – If a baby was born Ben Hashemashot Wednesday night, unsure if it is already Thursday, the Milah takes place the following Thursday. Only a Milah that is postponed is not performed on Thursday, within 3 days of Shabbat, but a Milah not postponed, but merely unsure due to Ben Hashemashot, is performed on Thursday.

6 – A baby born Ben Hashemashot Monday night is circumcised the following Tuesday. If Tuesday is a holiday, then the Milah is postponed, even if it is only the second day of Yom Tov outside of Israel, since it's better to be inactive when in doubt.

Sponsors

*** **Rabbi Isaac Yedid HaLevi, his wife Frieda, and their children.** Blessings and success for the entire family, Mazal Tov to the bride and groom **Joe and Sarah**, Mabrouk, Amen. *** **Mr. David Aharon Farhi, his wife Suzette, and their children.** Blessings and success for the entire family, Mazal Tov to the bride and groom **Joe and Sarah**, Mabrouk, Amen. *** **Mr. Leon Aharon Farhi, his wife Eva, and their children.** Blessings and success for the entire family, Mazal Tov to the bride and groom **Joe and Sarah**, Mabrouk, Amen. *** **Mr. Albir Farhi, his wife Rania, and their children.** Blessings and success for the entire family, Mazal Tov to the bride and groom **Joe and Sarah**, Mabrouk, Amen. *** **Mr. Albir Leon Farhi, his wife Grace, and their children.** Blessings and success for the entire family, Mazal Tov to the bride and groom **Joe and Sarah**, Mabrouk, Amen. *** **Mr. Henri Leon Farhi.** Blessings and success for the entire family, Mazal Tov to the bride and groom **Joe and Sarah**, Mabrouk, Amen. *** The young man **Mr. Yosef Leon Farhi and his parents.** Blessings and success for the entire family, Mazal Tov to the bride and groom **Joe and Sarah**, Mabrouk, Amen. *** **Mr. Morris Abadi, his wife Miriam, and their children.** Blessings and success


for the entire family, Leilui Nishmat **Rachel Bat Salha a”h**, Amen. *** **Mrs. Hayat Nawlo Fteha, her husband Dr. Faraj Nawlo, and their children.** Blessings and success for the entire family, with the blessed siblings: **Eli, Moshe, David, Evon, Loris, Hayat, Touni, and Marcel, on the passing of their father** Leilui Nishmat **Yosef Ben Nazli 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**, Amen.

*This week's sponsorship total is \$2200.
Tizku L'Mitzvot, Amen!*

Since we launched our newly designed website in April 2020, there has been **26,500** visits!

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