

Congregation

◆◆◆"Beth Yosef"◆◆◆

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

Rabbi Aharon Farhi

Parashat Vayigash

11th Tevet 5781

Maqam Bayat

Issue #919

Mr. Eliyahu Levy, President

Haftarat Vayhi Devar

December 26th 2020

*Candle Lighting 4:16pm * Shekiah 4:34pm * Shir Hashirim 4:00pm followed by Minha Friday Night
Shaharit Shabbat 8:15am * Minha Shabbat 4:00pm * Shabbat Ends 5:17pm & Rabbenu Tam 5:46pm*

*Time for Talit 6:24am * Seasonal Hour 55:00 * Alot Hashahar 6:13am * Netz Hachama 7:19am*

*Weekday Minha 4:20pm * Earliest Time for Arbit 4:03pm * Tzet Hacoachavim 5:12pm * Chatzot 11:56*

*Latest Time for Morning Keriat Shema 8:58am * Latest Time for Morning Amidah 9:53am*

***The fast of the 10th of Tevet will be Friday December 25th
Fast begins 6:13am and ends 5:00pm, for the strict 5:11pm***

Please do not read this bulletin during Tefillah or Keriat Hatorah

The Pasuk tells us that Yaakov and his family took all their possessions that they gained in the land of Canaan and moved to Egypt. Why did the Pasuk specify that the possessions were from Canaan? Hadn't Yaakov earned quite a large amount from his earlier days of working for Lavan before he came to Canaan? Wasn't he wealthy when he left Lavan, owning 120 myriads of animals? Our Sages teach us: When Yaakov came back from Lavan and met up with Esav, he gifted everything he owned to his brother Esav as an exchange for his rights to a burial plot in Maarat Hamachpelah. Esav in fact then signed a legal document of sale. Let us ask: For the entire Maarat Hamachpelah purchase, their grandfather Avraham Avinu had paid 400 silver coins. Why did Yaakov pay so much more for just one burial plot? There is a Halacha: If a person sells his burial plot during his lifetime, a plot that is next to the graves of his fathers, then the children of the seller can argue the sale after his passing and then cancel the sale, on condition that the children repay the full sale price back to the buyer. Yaakov therefore paid such an incredibly large sum for two reasons: 1- He knew through Ruach Hakodesh, divine insight, that Esav and his children would challenge the sale and argue its validity after Yaakov passed away. In order to prevent them from being able and willing to repurchase it back, he made the sale price so large that they would never pay back so much for such a small burial plot. 2- Yaakov did not

want to keep the money he had earned from Lavan, as the money originated from a source of impurity and idolatry. Instead, he gave it all to Esav, included in this sale price. We also see that, when Yaakov was on his way coming back to the holy land, he collected all the nose rings from his servants, changed their clothing, and left it all in Shechem, so as not to bring anything that originated from impurity and idolatry with him into the holy land. May Hashem watch over us, Amen. (*Melech HaKodesh*)

Insights on the Parasha

1 – Yosef first says to his brothers that he is Yosef, and asks whether their father is still alive. He then repeats that he is Yosef their brother, the one they sold down to Egypt. Why did he repeat that he is Yosef, and why did he add that he is their brother? When his son Avshalom died, David Hamelech said "My son" a number of times, eight times in fact, in order to bring him up out of the seven depths of Gehinam and into Gan Eden, eight levels total. When he stressed that he was his 'son', he was stating that without a doubt Avshalom never really intended to kill his father David, and therefore the entire episode should be discounted as a decree from heaven, cleansing Avshalom of sin. This defense, brought forth from a father for his son, saved Avshalom from Gehinam. Yosef also wished to argue in defense of his brothers. He therefore stated that

he was Yosef their brother, to stress that they should not be held accountable, as a brother does not wish to kill his brother, and therefore the whole episode should be discounted as a decree from heaven, cleansing the brothers from any sin. (*Shaare Ezra*)

History in Brief

30 years after the Temple's destruction, in the year 98AD. Rabi Tarfon was a very wealthy person who did not give charity in proportion to his wealth. One day, Rabi Akiva asked Rabi Tarfon if he wished for him to purchase a village on his behalf. He agreed, and Rabi Tarfon gave him four thousand golden dinars to use for the purchase. Rabi Akiva then took the money and distributed it all to the poor people. The next time Rabi Tarfon saw Rabi Akiva, he asked him what he had purchased with his money – where was the village? Rabi Akiva brought him to the Bet Midrash and asked a boy with a Sefer Tehillim in his hand to read a Pasuk. He quoted the Pasuk that states, one who spreads amongst the orphans, his righteousness will stand forever. Rabi Akiva exclaimed that this was the ‘village’ he had acquired for him, in the next world. Rabi Tarfon then gave him a kiss, and said ‘you are my teacher in wisdom and Derech Eretz’. He then gave him more money to distribute to the poor. Rabi Tarfon had an old mother who needed his help getting in and out of bed. Each time he would crouch on the floor and allow her to step on his back in order to go up or down. One time, while his mother was taking a walk through the garden, the strap of her sandal came loose and she could not tie it back up on Shabbat. Rabi Tarfon put his hands under her foot and she walked on his hands until she reached her bed.

Rishon LeSion: R' Shlomo Moshe Suzin 1736-1836
R' Shlomo was exalted in Jerusalem for his intelligence. Through his leadership Jerusalem shone bright for an extended period of time. From his youth he would travel to other countries to teach Torah. Many times, he traveled to Turkey and a number of countries in North Africa. Each time he would be received as royalty, as the people fought for the honor to host him as a guest in their home. The wealthy who received the opportunity did not spare any luxury on his behalf, to make his visit comfortable and effective. One time, as he was visiting Tunisia, he stayed by R' Avraham Belarus, who suffered many years with head ailments and

had difficulty learning Torah. As they conversed in Torah, R' Avraham told R' Shlomo about his suffering with head ailments, and asked him for a blessing of recovery. He blessed him with a Refuah Shelemah. A few days later, R' Avraham felt completely better, and he was once again able to learn Torah without issue.

Health and Recovery

It is an obligation in the Torah that we must take care of our health. The following are important ways to watch over our health: 1- Reduce and limit cellular phone usage. 2- Every minute we do not use the cell phone is a contribution towards our health. 3- Children 14 years and under, whose minds are growing and affected the most from cellular usage, should not be playing games on cell phones. 4- Use speakerphone, a Bluetooth device if possible, or a wired headset, and keep the phone further away from your head. 5- Even keeping the cell phone just 5cm away from your face is helpful. 6- The microphone is strong and does not need to be close to your mouth. 7- It is best not to keep the cell phone close to your body all the time. 8- While calling, the signal is strong and the cell phone should be distanced from the body. 9- During a phone call, switch the phone from ear to ear. When the signal is coming in weaker, the electronic magnetic parts of the cell phone work harder, therefore do not use the cell phone in areas with weaker signals. 10- While traveling quickly in a car, the cell phone works harder to maintain a good signal connection, therefore reduce cell phone usage while driving, even if you are not the driver.

Mussar: Fasting

Our Sages of blessed memory teach us: All who fast are called holy. Fortunate are those who are able to fast. There are many Segulot in fasting, such as the ‘Sitra Achara’ (Yetzer Hara) cannot cling to one who is fasting. Fasting leads to humbleness, since one loses his strength from not eating and realizes his limits as a human. One who is fasting is not tested from heaven, since Hashem sees the person testing himself, and he is already considered one who overpowers his inclination. He is then fit for the Shechinah to rest upon him, and his prayers are heard without any prosecutors objecting. There are many angels that are created through performing Mitzvot, but cannot ascend unless the person uses the power of a fast. A person who fasts is credited to have brought a sacrifice consisting of the fat and

blood that he has lost while fasting. Unfortunately, many are fooled by their evil inclination that they are unhealthy and therefore fasting will result in sickness. They are led to believe that fasting in such a state would cause them to be punished in the next world for neglecting their bodily needs. Fasting is an excellent form for attaining forgiveness. Our great and holy sages knew the severity of their sins and fasted many fasts, as David Hamelech says, “*My knees are weak from fasting*”. Rebi Elazar and Rebi Yehoshua fasted until their teeth turned black in order to atone for specific sins. Rav Huna fasted 40 times for a specific reason as well. There were many others as well. So much more must we understand our need to atone for our many unbearable sins. Fasting is difficult, but what else can we do? Eat, drink, and be merry? Do not listen to your evil inclination who tells you that it is too unbearable for he is trying to destroy you! Many who fast turn out a lot healthier than those that do not. One who wishes to purify himself is definitely helped by heaven. One must especially be careful with obligatory fasts, such as the upcoming fast of the 10th of Tevet. May Hashem watch over us, Amen.

Story

When the author asked the great conductor Toscillillo if he could visit one evening to continue working on his biography, the request was denied. The great artist was expecting a phone call from an old student whom he had developed into an established musical talent, and he wished to speak privately, sample his work, and not be interrupted that evening. The author asked if he could perhaps just sit over to the side and witness the conversation with his student, not making a sound until the phone call ended, and this request was finally granted. The next day, as he sat through the call, they listened to the student’s symphony composition that had been recorded and was being played for his review. The author enjoyed it thoroughly, but the great Toscillillo commented that the number of violinists were lacking – there should have been fifteen in total, not fourteen. The author was shocked. How could he possibly have known that there were only fourteen violins playing instead of fifteen, just by listening to the music? Anyone would look at this great composer, who was now advanced in age, 85 years old in fact, and think that perhaps as great as he was throughout his career, at this stage in life perhaps he was now missing a step or a beat. But no

– he proved that his skill was as sharp as ever, and his expertise was second to none. His ears were just as fine-tuned as ever. How he was able to decipher whether there were fourteen or fifteen violinists playing was nothing short of miraculous. Could this really be possible? Was it in fact true? The author decided to find out and get to the bottom of this.

Two Halachot: Posek Rav Mordechai Eliyahu

1 – A person should not be lightheaded, without seriousness, and always joking around. Likewise, a person should not be large, wide, lazy, and unproductive.

2 – Rather, a person should be generous, satisfied with his lot, work less and learn more Torah, and be happy with having enough. The portion in the next world that he will receive after a long life is the true treasure, not what he will leave behind in this world and never enjoy, as it says “Fortunate is the one who comes here (the next world) and his Torah learning is in his hand.”

Laws: Fasting

1 – All are obligated to fast the four Rabbinical fasts, one of which takes place on the 10th of Tevet.

2 – The obligation to fast spans from Alot Hashahar until Tzet Hacoachavim. Alot Hashahar, according to the Ben Ish Hai and Maran Ovadia Yosef zt”l is as follows: one and a fifth seasonal hours before Netz Hachama. The current seasonal hour consists of 55 minutes. Add the fifth, 11 minutes, and Alot would be 66 minutes before Netz, which is 6:13am. The fast will end 25 minutes after Shekiah which will be 5:00pm, or for those who wish to be strict it will end at Tzet Hacoachavim precisely at 5:11pm.

3 – One who goes to sleep without intending to wake up before the fast begins cannot eat anymore even if he wakes up before the fast begins. However, if he goes to sleep with the intention to wake up before the fast begins in order to eat then he may eat until Alot Hashachar.

4 – These fasts do not prohibit washing, showering of any sort, smearing, wearing leather shoes, or relations.

5 – Pregnant and nursing women, with the following specifications, are not obligated to fast. She has to have been pregnant for three months already from the time she conceived. However, if she is still within three months and she is feeling sick and is in pain, then she may eat.

6 – Once a woman gives birth, she is not obligated to fast for 24 months, even when she stops nursing.

This applies as well to a woman who miscarries. Nonetheless, even though they are allowed to eat, those who eat should only eat what they need to and should not apply any effort to eat enjoyable foods.

7 – A sick person (not necessarily in danger), or an old weak person, who will be in pain from fasting, are not obligated to fast.

8 – Boys under age 13 and girls under age 12 are not obligated to fast.

9 – A married couple within their seven days of Sheva Berachot, a father of a newborn son receiving a Brit Milah, the Sandak (holder of the baby during the Brit procedure) and the Mohel are all obligated to fast.

10 – One shouldn't wash or brush his mouth on the morning of the fast. However, if one has to, he can, provided that he faces downwards and makes sure not to swallow anything.

11 – An otherwise healthy person who has to swallow pills or tablets for pain relief and the like may swallow them without water as long as they do not have a flavoring. If one cannot swallow without water, little water is allowed for swallowing. Liquid medicine may be consumed as well, as long as you do not enjoy the taste or flavoring and do not derive pleasure besides for the desired effects. If the sickness is serious, then you may consume the medication even though there is flavoring. Smoking is permitted during these fasts.

12 – One who eats accidentally less than a Kezayit must finish his fast and may recite Anenu in Mincha. If he already ate a Kezayit, he still completes the fast, but cannot recite Anenu in Mincha.

13 – One who accidentally recited a blessing in order to eat must taste a little in order to derive pleasure and not waste a blessing.

14 – If one forgot to say Anenu in Shomeah Tefillah, he continues and recites it at the end of Elokai Netzor.

Sponsors

*** *Dr. Nissim Katri, his wife, and their children.*

Blessings and success for the entire family, Amen.

*** *Mr. Ovadia Alkada, his wife Rachel, and their children.* Blessings and success for the entire

family, Leilui Nishmat his brother *Dr. Mayer Alkada Ben Rosa a"h*, Amen. *** *The Janani Family.*

Blessings and success for the entire family, Leilui Nishmat *Jack Chaim Ben Sarah a"h*, Amen.

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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. *** *Mr. Eli Levy, his wife Becky, and their children.*

Blessings, health, and success for the entire family, Leilui Nishmat *Roslin Bat Chava a"h*, Amen.

This week's sponsorship total is \$550.


Weekly cost total is \$1,300

Tizku L'Mitzvot, Amen!

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