

Congregation

◆◆◆"Beth Yosef"◆◆◆

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

Rabbi Aharon Farhi
Parashat Shemot
25th Tevet 5781

Maqam Raast
Issue #921

Mr. Eliyahu Levy, President
Haftarat Divre Yirmeyahu
January 9th 2021

*Candle Lighting 4:28pm * Shekiah 4:46pm * Shir Hashirim 4:20pm followed by Minha Friday Night Shahrarit Shabbat 8:15am * Minha Shabbat 4:10pm * Shabbat Ends 5:29pm & Rabbenu Tam 5:59pm Time for Talit 6:24am * Seasonal Hour 56:00 * Alot Hashahar 6:13am * Netz Hachama 7:20am Weekday Minha 4:35pm * Earliest Time for Arbit 4:14pm * Tzet Hacoachavim 5:24pm * Chatzot 12:03 Latest Time for Morning Keriat Shema 9:01am * Latest Time for Morning Amidah 9:57am*

Sponsored by: Mr. Joe Mordechai Allaham HaCohen, his wife Lillian, their parents, and their children. Leilui Nishmat his grandfather Mr. Yosef Allaham Ben Farha a"h.

May Hashem bless them all spiritually, materially, and physically, Amen.

Please do not read this bulletin during Tefillah or Keriat Hatorah

This week, we are introduced to Moshe Rabbenu, who was born to Yocheved and Amram, saved by Batya the daughter of Pharaoh, and raised in the palace of Pharaoh as the prince of Egypt. The exile that Hashem had informed Avraham Avinu about was now actually beginning. At the same time that the exile commences, the leader and liberator of our holy nation was born. The Pasuk modestly relates how Moshe's father, from the tribe of Levi, went to Moshe's mother, also from the tribe of Levi. Although Moshe would grow to be one of the greatest men that ever lived, a man who spoke directly to Hashem and brought us the Torah from heaven, the Parasha is emphasizing here that he was born from a mother just like everyone else. The Torah teaches us not to exaggerate details and facts, and not to weave fascinating legendary tales about his origin, as if he was some supernatural being born in spiritual form. In order to save him from death, his family had cast him into the river when he was only an infant. This teaches a valuable lesson: From the moment that we are born, we too must realize that we start from the beginning and grow up from the bottom. Moshe was born naturally as a regular baby, just as all babies are born, yet he grew to be a great person, as he excelled in spirituality until he became Moshe Rabbenu. He developed and transformed his nature to reach outstanding holiness and spiritual heights through the guidance of the Torah. His natural essence was altered and elevated through leading his life in the ways of the Torah. This child, Moshe, grew up in Pharaoh's palace. Pharaoh had decreed that all children like Moshe should be put to their death immediately upon their birth. It is nothing short of a miracle that Moshe remained alive and actually

grew up right in front of Pharaoh, within his own palace! The leader and liberator of our holy nation had been disciplined within Pharaoh's household and raised by Pharaoh's daughter. When he was grown older, began maturing, he went out to his people, the Jewish nation, leaving behind the luxuries and comfort of the palace, in order to take part in their suffering. Through this sensitivity he began to grow to be their true leader, to be the one who would bring the Torah down from heaven. He was raised in the palace, not mixed within the actual exile, so that his own mind and spirit should not feel familiar with low servitude and slave work. He was raised in the magnificent palace of Pharaoh, a place where fear and apprehension for people was unheard of, and actually used that experience to understand that only Hashem is to be feared and revered. He learned all the royal qualities, how to rule and how to lead, from Pharaoh's palace. He had been born already circumcised, and nursed only from his mother Yocheved, thus keeping a connection to his family. He felt for his brethren and went out from the palace to feel their pain. It was then that Hashem appeared to him and recognized Moshe as a true leader, one who treats his people as brothers and leaves his own comforts in order to suffer with his people. Just as Moshe left behind the palace and all of the royal treatments, in turn Hashem left behind the heavens above and came down below to earth to speak with Moshe. We must learn from Moshe Rabbenu and follow in his ways, so that we too will merit to be and have leaders today who are straight and righteous like Moshe Rabbenu, who are compassionate, caring, understanding, and generous, so that we will merit the final redemption, Amen.

Insights on the Parasha

1 – *He saw, and behold! The bush was burning in the fire, but the bush was not consumed* - Why a thorn bush? The *Tzror Hamor* explains that it symbolizes the following: Just as if a bird would enter a thorn bush in peace it would leave in pain with injuries, so too one who wishes to harm Bnei Yisrael will not get away without punishment. Also, just as entry into a thorn bush is easy and almost undetected while the exit is greatly noticed, so too while Bnei Yisrael entered Egypt quietly and simply, their exit will be with great commotion, miracles, and amazing wonders. So shall be our ultimate redemption speedily in our days, Amen.

2 – *Batya called him Moshe*. Moshe had many other names, however the name he is popularly known as is the name chosen by the daughter of Pharaoh, the name Moshe. Hashem agreed with using her chosen name, Moshe. Why? Because of her kindness, generosity, and selflessness. She had saved him from death and raised him in the Palace. Such kindness does not go unnoticed. She therefore merited that the name she chose, Moshe, would be the one most used, especially by Hashem.

History in Brief

40 years after the Temple's destruction, in the year 106AD. After Rebi Yishmael, the name of Rebi Elazar Ben Yehuda came forth. He was a colleague of Rebi Akiva. Known for his Chassidut, he would give whatever he had in his pocket to charity. The Gabbaim were even wary of him, concerned that he would give everything he owned away. One day, he was in the marketplace to purchase items for his daughter who was a bride soon to be wed. In his pocket was a nice amount of money in order to spend on his daughter's needs. The Gabbaim saw him and began going in the opposite direction, knowing what could happen next. He noticed and began chasing after them in order to give charity. He commanded them to tell him the causes they were currently collecting for, and they explained that there were two orphans, a bride and a groom, who needed funds in order to get married with some dignity. He immediately gave them all his money except one Dinar, claiming that they needed the funds far more than his own daughter. He then used the Dinar to purchase wheat and threw the wheat into their storehouse under their house. The mother asked her daughter what her father purchased on her behalf for her upcoming wedding and she explained that her father had thrown what he had bought

under the storehouse. She opened the door but it would hardly open due to the storehouse miraculously being completely full of wheat. When Rebi Elazar came home from Bet Midrash, his wife told him to go see what miracle Hashem had done for them. When he saw, he exclaimed that he was uninterested from benefiting from the miracle, and vowed to donate all the wheat to charity.

Health and Recovery

Good advice for good health: 1- Go to the dentist every six months to get a cleaning and a checkup. 2- Practice to physically keep your mouth closed, from a young age, even while sleeping. 3- Sleep at least six hours each night. 4- Do not go suddenly from light to dark or from dark to light. 5- Do not hold the phone to your ear by using just your shoulder and not your hand. 6- Do not stand for prolonged periods of time. 7- Stay away from the microwave. 8- Stay away from smoke. 9- Keep away from garbage. 10- Fill out a will. 11- Keep track of your working minutes. 12- From the ages of 30-35 avoid carrying heavy loads. 13- From the age of 40 get your vision checked and your eyes examined periodically, as well as your blood and sugar levels. 14- From the age of 50 get an ultrasound of your neck and check your bone density. Now let us discuss the body, which constantly repairs itself. The skin and nails we have today are not the same that we had just a short while ago, definitely not the same as a year ago. The food we eat provide energy, vitamins and nutrients, which it carries around the body through the blood, and are used to rebuild and repair much of the body constantly.

Mussar: Lashon Hara

It is a terrible sin to speak negatively about another Jew, even if it is the truth. For example: *This is what so and so did, These are his ancestors, This is what I heard about him*. One who speaks evil and lies about another Jew is called a *Motzi Shem Ra*. Our Sages teach us that the sin of Lashon Hara is equivalent to idolatry, immorality, and murder all together. Lashon Hara is categorized into different categories: One who speaks negatively about somebody that did something bad to him, and others hear and remain quiet – since it appears like they agree to what he said, those listeners are also guilty of Lashon Hara; One who speaks Lashon Hara about a person's ancestors; If someone causes someone else's face to turn white in public regarding the actions of his ancestors; It is

forbidden to tell a son that his father did certain bad things during his lifetime, even if the person told the son in private and not within earshot of others; If a person speaks about a Baal Teshuvah's previous sins, this is a great sin because he did Teshuvah and his sins became Zechuyot. Furthermore, he is causing the Baal Teshuvah to stumble and he might go back to his old ways; If you see someone doing a sin privately, do not publicize it because he may do Teshuvah and Hashem will forgive him while you are demeaning him in public; If a Talmid Hacham or Yirei Shamayim sins because the Yetzer Hara got him once, don't suspect him because for sure he has already done Teshuvah; It is forbidden to be happy about your friend's shame; One who speaks about kosher Gabbaim and says they are thieves, his sin is too great to carry. Hashem should forgive us, Amen.

Rishon LeSion:

R' Shlomo Moshe Suzin 1736-1836

One time, two people approached R' Shlomo with a monetary dispute, and asked him to pass judgment. R' Shlomo listened to the two sides, and ruled in favor of one over the other. The one found guilty became angry and disagreed, vowing not to accept the verdict from the Rabbi. R' Shlomo did not answer out of humility. The other Rabbanim who were presiding over the case along with R' Shlomo were shocked from the actions of the man and chased him out of the Bet Din, as the guilty party continued to scream and shout in protest of the verdict, claiming it was a false judgment.

Story

After the author confirmed that the musical piece they had heard indeed only included fourteen violinists instead of the required fifteen, he asked the great conductor Toscillillo how he was able to make this distinction just by hearing it played over the telephone. The great artist, advanced in age, explained that he had been the one who originally composed this musical piece, and gave each of the fifteen violinists specific instructions, each slightly different than the next. When played properly in unison, the symphony produced the desired effect that he intended. When he heard it played, throughout the piece it became more and more evident that a violinist was not doing his job and must have been absent from the performance. To the untrained ear of a layman, such a distinction would surely be impossible to make, however, he

understood how each and every detail was intended and served a purpose in the grand scheme of the musical piece, and he therefore knew something was off. Here ends the story that the Maggid Shiur Moshe was telling over to the broken-hearted Baal Teshuva who was terminally ill. The young man had not thought that his learning of only a few lines of Gemara each day had any value, compared to others who learned so much more in greater depth each day. The Rabbi was explaining to him that, although each day on its own seems insignificant, nonetheless collectively his learning throughout the week, month, and year in fact produced a beautiful symphony when put all together, and in heaven they rejoice and celebrate his accomplishments that accumulate over time. Hashem is the one who wrote the masterpiece, the Torah, and Hashem enjoys all who learn it, no matter how much, no matter how fast, no matter how deep, it is all a beautiful symphony that Hashem appreciates and enjoys.

Two Halachot: *Posek Rav Mordechai Eliyahu*

1 – Our Sages warn us not to prohibit what is permissible to us, and not to add on to what is already prohibited, as the Torah already prohibits what is not allowed to be enjoyed, and we should not deprive ourselves from what is permissible to us, as Shelomo Hamelech warns us not to be overly righteous, to try to be smarter than the Torah and our holy Sages.

2 – Never be embarrassed when performing any Mitzvah just because others may ridicule for whatever reason. However, when others are being cynical and laughing for whatever reason, do not fight with them or even answer them, as you do not need to defend the Mitzvah or justify your proper actions regardless of their opinions.

Laws: *Blessings*

1 – Anything eaten within the meal with bread, such as dips or sauces eaten with bread, or anything put in bread, such as meat, fish, eggs, vegetables, cheese, etc. even when eaten without bread, we do not recite an individual blessing on them, before or after eating, since Hamotzi and Birkat Hamazon cover them, even if they were not before you when you were reciting the blessing on the bread.

2 – Raw vegetables eaten after the meal before reciting Birkat Hamazon require a blessing of Ha'adamah, even though they may have been eaten during the meal cooked, since they are now being eaten raw at the end of the meal.

3 – One who eats salad with raw vegetables during the meal, including cucumbers, and then after the meal wishes to eat fresh cut cucumbers, must recite a blessing on the cucumbers.

Sponsors

*** **Mr. Eli Shalouh HaCohen, his wife Esther, and their children.** Blessings and success for the entire family, Leilui Nishmat the Chief Hacham of Damascus Mekubal **Rabbi Nissim Endibo HaCohen Ben Shafiah a”h**, may his merits protect us and the Shalouh family, Amen. *** **Anonymous Donor.** Blessings and success for the entire family, Leilui Nishmat the great Mekubal **Rabbi Yitzchak Kadouri Ben Tifaha a”h**, may his merits protect us and the Anonymous Donor, and Leilui Nishmat **Yaakov Ben Badia a”h**, Amen. *** **The Mashgiach Rabbi Tuvia Yermiyah Halbirton, his wife Malka, and their children.** Blessings, health, Shalom Bayit, and success for the entire family, Amen. *** **Minyan Minha Kahal “Bet Aharon” in NJ.** May Hashem bless them with success in all their endeavors, Amen. *** **Mr. Farah Hamra, his wife Dina, and their children.** Blessings and success for the entire family, Leilui Nishmat his father **Yosef Ben Nahlie Abou Abdo a”h**, they ask from the family to recite Tehillim this Shabbat January 9th Leilui Nishmat, Tizku LeMitzvot, Amen. *** **The Farhi Family.** Blessings and success for the entire family, Refuah Shelemah for the Hazzan **Edward Farhi Ben Sara**, and Leilui Nishmat their mother **Sara Bat Salha a”h**, Amen. *** **Mrs. Touni Levy-Shrem, her husband Shaul Shahoud, and their children.** Blessings and success for the entire family, Leilui Nishmat her father the Hazzan **Shelomo Shrem Ben Mazal a”h**, Leilui Nishmat her mother **Rachel Bat Jamila a”h**, and Leilui Nishmat her mother-in-law **Altoon Bat Salha a”h**, Amen. *** **Mr. Eli Levy, his wife Becky, and their children.** Blessings, health, and success for the entire family, Leilui Nishmat **Rosalyn Bat Chava a”h**, Amen. *** **Mrs. Lillian Yazdi, her husband Jojo, and their children.** Blessings and success for the entire family, Leilui Nishmat **Afifa Bat Zahie a”h**, Amen. *** **Mr. Victor Maleh, his wife Shirley, and their children.** Blessings and success for the entire family, Leilui Nishmat his


uncle **Yosef Ben Sara a”h**, and Leilui Nishmat his aunt **Touni Bat Sara a”h**, of the Ashkenazi family, Amen. *** **Mr. Farah Hamra, his wife Dina, and their children.** Blessings and success for the entire family, Refuah Shelemah for his sister **Rachel Bat Latifa**, Amen. *** **Blessed brothers: Henry and Yitzchak Sarway, and their families.** Blessings and success for the entire family, Leilui Nishmat their grandfather **Natan Ben Zahie Abou Shama a”h**, Amen. *** **The Janani Family.** Blessings and success for the entire family, Leilui Nishmat **Jack Yaakov Chaim Ben Sara 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. *** **Mrs. Sarin Sabbagh and her children.** Blessings and success for the entire family, Refuah Shelemah for **Avraham Ben Daniella**, Amen.

*This week’s sponsorship total is \$2,200.
Tizku L’Mitzvot, Amen!*

Since we launched our newly designed website in April 2020, there has been 28,700 visits!

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2382 Coney Island Ave (718) 382-1981