

Congregation

◆◆◆"Beth Yosef"◆◆◆

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

Rabbi Aharon Farhi

Parashat Va'era

3rd Shevat 5781

Maqam Nawa

Issue #922

Mr. Eliyahu Levy, President

Haftarat Ko Amar

January 16th 2021

*Candle Lighting 4:35pm * Shekiah 4:53pm * Shir Hashirim 4:30pm followed by Minha Friday Night
Shaharit Shabbat 8:15am * Minha Shabbat 4:15pm * Shabbat Ends 5:36pm & Rabbenu Tam 6:06pm
Time for Talit 6:19am * Seasonal Hour 57:00 * Alot Hashahar 6:08am * Netz Hachama 7:17am
Weekday Minha 4:35pm * Earliest Time for Arbit 4:20pm * Tzet Hacoachavim 5:31pm * Chatzot 12:05
Latest Time for Morning Keriat Shema 8:59am * Latest Time for Morning Amidah 9:56am*

Please do not read this bulletin during Tefillah or Keriat Hatorah

The Midrash teaches us that Dina the daughter of Yaakov, after being forced by Shechem, was taken as a wife by her brother Shimon, in order to remove her from Shechem. They had a son named Shaul the son of the Canaanite. Afterwards, Iyov married Dina and became the son-in-law of Yaakov Avinu, as is hinted in the Pasuk 'Yaakov Eish Ubeto Bao' (Yaakov and his family came) taking the first letter of each Hebrew word to spell the name Iyov, who had joined his family. In this week's Parasha, the Pasuk explains regarding the plague of livestock: the one who will fear the word of Hashem amongst the servants of Pharaoh, and wishes to heed the warning, should bring his slaves and livestock indoors so as not to be hit by the plague. The Pasuk writes this in singular form, not plural form, indicating that only *one* servant of Pharaoh actually heeded this warning and brought in his slaves and livestock during the plague. Who was this individual? Our Sages of blessed memory teach us: his name was Iyov, *Job*. How do we know? Later on, in Parashat Mishpatim, it also uses the term '*those who fear the word of Hashem*', referring to those who are exempt from going to battle with the nation due to their fear, which the commentators explain is caused by the fact that they sinned and fear punishment for their sins during battle. Just as it refers in Mishpatim to those who have sinned, so too in our Parasha the Pasuk refers to someone who has sinned. This is Iyov. The question is: many Egyptians witnessed the first six plagues before reaching the seventh plague of fiery hail. Why weren't more of them afraid enough to at least take a precaution and bring in their slaves and livestock? Let's take a step back: When Pharaoh was deciding to institute the decree that all newborn boys should be thrown to their deaths into the Nile River, three of his most trusted advisors sat before him: Bilaam, Iyov, and Yitro. Bilaam advised that he carry out

the decree. Iyov remained silent. Yitro argued against it and ran away to save his life. Iyov governed his life and served Hashem under the strict discipline of reward and punishment. He only extended himself to the degree so as not to incur punishment, and acted good in order to be rewarded for his good deeds. He remained silent because it was in his best interests not to argue with Pharaoh and risk punishment. His silence was a sin, and he is therefore the one that the Pasuk discusses in our Parasha – the one who wished to heed the warning, and brought his slaves and livestock indoors so as not to be hit by the plague. We must learn from Iyov's mistake: One must serve Hashem with *love* for Hashem, with the desire to connect with Hashem and fulfill the will of Hashem. Serving Hashem out of fear of otherwise being punished, and with the expectation of rewards and payments, can possibly distance a person from Hashem and can cause him more damage than good in the long run. May Hashem watch over us, Amen.

Insights on the Parasha

1 – The Pasuk states: As Bnei Yisrael were leaving Egypt, *the dogs held their tongue and did not bark*. One time a merchant came into the house of Rabbi Meir Levi and asked, "Rabbenu... I have performed in business with all my best efforts and did all that is necessary to succeed in my business. Nonetheless, all my efforts have failed and I cannot succeed." The Rabbi answered: "A Jew does not have to do tricks and apply extra unnecessary forms of diligence in order to succeed, but rather he must only maintain normalcy. The Pasuk stated here teaches us that, regarding Bnei Yisrael, the dog holds his tongue, that is, all a Jew must do in life is make sure that his mouth and heart are equal, without conspiracies and tricks, and always conduct his affairs with integrity and truth. How do you see

this from the Pasuk? “Bnei Yisrael Lo Yecheartz” – could be translated as meaning that a Jewish person does not need to be shrewd or conniving in order to succeed, rather only “Kelev Leshono” – which besides for Kelev meaning a dog, it can also be translated as Ke-Lev, like the heart, Leshono, should be his speech, teaching us that our words (tongue) and intentions (heart) should match and be exact. Then Hashem will bless us with success in all that we perform.

2 – Pharaoh said: *I shall send you out, and you shall not continue to stand (remain)*. If he said that he is sending them out, why does he need to also say that they will not continue to remain? R’ Yair Mizrahi explains: The Pasuk says, *Avraham awoke and went to the place where he would stand*. ‘Standing’ means praying. Here too, Pharaoh meant that they will not continue to ‘stand’, meaning they will not spend time in prayers, but rather be quick in sending them away.

History in Brief

50 years after the Temple’s destruction, in the year 118AD. Rebi Akiva was one of the leaders of the generation after the destruction of the Temple, and he lived to the ripe old age of one hundred and twenty, like Moshe Rabbenu, Ezra HaSofer, Hillel HaZaken, and Rebi Yochanan Ben Zakai. He served as the Rosh Yeshiva for forty years. One time, when Rebi Akiva was visiting a different city, someone falsely accused him of crimes to the authorities. The government sent two pretty women to Rebi Akiva to entice him to sin. They sat by his side all night, but he kept away from them and did not look at them. When they reported this to the authorities the next morning, they summoned Rebi Akiva and asked him why he did not act in the way of what they considered normal behavior for a man? Why had he ignored the women? Rebi Akiva answered: What could I do? To me their presence was like that of a dead animal’s carcass! He established his Yeshiva in Bnei Brak, and thousands of students came to learn from him. One time, Rebi Tarfon and Rebi Akiva were arguing in Torah. When Rebi Tarfon eventually relented, he said: Akiva! Who can argue with you? Separating from you is like separating from life! Rebi Akiva knew great secrets in Torah and Kabballah, to the point that he was close to prophecy. His generation knew that he was worthy of the Shechinah’s presence similar to Moshe Rabbenu, but unfortunately it was not the right place or time for such revelations. Secrets that

even Moshe Rabbenu did not know were revealed to Rebi Akiva. Rebi Akiva considered Shir HaShirim the greatest gift, as all other portions of the Torah were only considered as Kodesh, while Shir HaShirim was considered Kodesh Kodashim, Holy of Holies! Once, Rebi Akiva was reciting Shir HaShirim Friday night, Shabbat, and a student noticed tears streaming down his cheeks. His student asked how Rebi Akiva was able to cry on Shabbat instead of enjoying Shabbat. Rebi Akiva explained that his enjoyment was Shir HaShirim, as he understood where the words go after he spoke them. One who belittles the recitation of Shir HaShirim loses out tremendously and one who sings it without respect does not have a portion in the next world, as the words are serious and important, connecting the holy nation to Hashem our Creator, thus being words that are the foundation of all existence.

Rishon LeSion:

R’ Shlomo Moshe Suzin 1736-1836

When two people had approached R’ Shlomo with a monetary dispute, and he ruled in favor of one over the other, the one found guilty became angry and vowed not to accept the verdict. R’ Shlomo did not answer out of humility, but the other Rabbanim chased him out of the Bet Din, while the guilty party screamed and shouted in protest, claiming it was a false judgment. That night, screams of pain were heard from this man’s bedroom. His family and neighbors came to his bedside to find his face twisted in agony, and his body writhing in suffering. What was wrong with him? They did not know what to do for him. One family member remembered how he had treated R’ Shlomo that day and decided the suffering was a punishment for the disrespect he had shown. Immediately the family went to the house of R’ Shlomo to beg for mercy and forgiveness on behalf of the suffering man. When they returned with R’ Shlomo’s wholehearted forgiveness, they found the man to be sleeping peacefully once again, all pain and suffering gone without a trace. They realized the greatness of the righteous R’ Shlomo and made sure never to disrespect him again.

Health and Recovery

The human body continuously rejuvenates, breaking down old cells and regrowing anew. Food provides the nutrients, vitamins, and minerals in order to perform this task. This occurs throughout

our lifetimes, sometimes over the span of days, weeks, months, and even years. When the body is damaged, whether it be the tissue, the skin, the muscles, the ligaments, or even the bones, our body is programmed by Hashem to repair itself and heal. As we get older, the body could take longer to heal and repair, and sometimes not completely, or unfortunately sometimes not very much at all. An older body does not derive as much from food as it used to when it was younger, and is unable to break down the food most efficiently to provide much needed nutrition. Calcium is of utmost importance. Calcium is a nutrient that all living organisms need, including humans. It is the most abundant mineral in the body, and it is vital for bone health. Humans need calcium to build and maintain strong bones, and 99% of the body's calcium is in the bones and teeth. It is also necessary for maintaining healthy communication between the brain and other parts of the body. It plays a role in muscle movement and cardiovascular function. Calcium occurs naturally in many foods, and food manufacturers add it to certain products. Supplements are also available and should be added to your diet as needed.

Mussar: *Obligation of Man*

The purpose of creation is that man fulfills Hashem's commandments. Without purpose, life is worthless. Without Mitzvot, man is just like an animal. We recite in prayers that man is permitted over animal '*Ayin*', meaning that man has the ability to say '*no*' – *I do not wish to act in such a manner*. Man has the choice to decide between good and bad. One who does not properly take advantage of this choice is therefore categorized as an animal. Also, man is equipped with '*Ayin*' – the three Hebrew letters represent: *Amira* (*speech*) *Yedia* (*understanding*) and *Netina*, characteristics only given to man and not to animals. Once man realizes his purpose, he must fulfill it truthfully with joy and happiness. One who realizes his goals and works hard to achieve them has great reason to rejoice and celebrate. Such happiness is the core of life and the foundation for success. Without happiness, holiness and even the understanding of Torah cannot enter man. Even when man is suffering painfully, he is still obligated to recognize the good in his life and believe with great trust in Hashem that everything done is for the best and will occur in the proper place and time. Always be patient and accept Hashem's masterplan, as that is our service in this world.

Story

After the Maggid Shiur R' Moshe finished telling over the story of the symphony that should have included 15 violinists but was missing one and only had 14, he explained the significance of the story 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 explained that, although each day on its own may seem insignificant, nonetheless collectively his learning throughout the week, month, and year in fact produced a beautiful symphony when combined together, and the heavens rejoice and celebrate his accomplishments accumulating 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. If anyone is not learning Torah, if there are those who are not praying to Hashem, singing the holy words of the Gemara out loud, then Hashem notices that the symphony is incomplete! We must play our part, no matter if we are playing a solo or if we're one amongst many others, each and every note counts, makes a difference, and will be sorely missed if unaccounted. This is the story that took place in the summer, as we mentioned many weeks ago in the beginning of the story. The following winter, R' Moshe happened to see that Baal Teshuva's son. He asked him how his father was doing, and he informed him that his father had passed away. He also told R' Moshe that until his last day, he did not give up on his learning, and continued accomplishing a few lines of Gemara each and every day. Each time before he started learning, he would announce that he was playing his part in the great symphony being conducted by Hashem in heaven. He wanted his music and song to be heard, he wanted his instrument to be played and not missed. He understood the value of his learning. May his memory be blessed, Amen.

Two Halachot: *Posek Rav Mordechai Eliyahu*

- 1** – Never fight or argue over the performance of a Mitzvah, such as being Hazzan during prayers or getting an Aliyah to the Torah.
- 2** – It is human nature to be influenced by those around you. Therefore, always befriend righteous people who will be a positive influence, and

distance from wicked people who walk in the darkness of sin.

Laws: Blessings

1 – A fruit that detached from a tree during Shabbat, or a vegetable from the ground, whether from the wind or accidentally by a person, may not be eaten, used, or even moved during Shabbat.

2 – A pleasant smelling fruit still attached to a tree may not be smelled during Shabbat, so that one will not mistakenly detach it.

3 – A rose or any plant or flower that is intended to be smelled for its fragrance, may be smelled during Shabbat even while attached, since that is its purpose. However, a fine smelling fruit cannot be smelled while attached, since he may detach it to eat it.

4 – One cannot use a tree during Shabbat out of concern that he might remove a branch, however if a nail is in the tree and it is holding up your bucket, you may remove and replace things from your bucket from the nail that is in the tree.

Sponsors

*** **Mrs. Becky Levy, her husband Eli, and their children.** Blessings and success for the entire family, Leilui Nishmat **Rachel Bat Latifah Alkada a”h**, Amen. *** Sandak **Mr. Shlomo Guindi HaCohen, his wife Batia, and their children.** Blessings and success for the entire family, Mazal Tov on the birth of their grandson **Yosef, Jeffrey, Mabrouk**, Amen. *** **Mr. Joe Albert Guindi HaCohen, his wife Arlett, and their children.** Blessings and success for the entire family, Mazal Tov on the engagement of **Albert and Frieda, Mabrouk**, Amen. *** **Mr. Mayer Gneige, his wife Sabah, and their children.** Blessings and success for the entire family, Mazal Tov on Semahot of their children, **Mabrouk**, Amen. *** **The young man Yehuda Udi Yom Tov Dahab Abadi, his parents, and his siblings.** Blessings and success for the entire family, Amen. *** **Mr. Ted Levy, his wife Celia, and their children.** Blessings and success for the entire family, Leilui Nishmat his mother **Altoun Bat Salha a”h**, Amen. *** **Mr. Yedidya Laniado, his wife Touni, and their**

children Moshe and Batia. Blessings and success for the entire family, Leilui Nishmat his father **Moshe Ben Sarah a”h**, Amen. *** **Mr. Nouriel Alkada and his children.** Blessings and success for the entire family, Leilui Nishmat their mother **Rachel Bat Latifah 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. *** **The Janani Family.** Blessings and success for the entire family, Leilui Nishmat **Jack Yaakov Chaim Ben Sara a”h**, Amen.

This week's sponsorship total is \$950.


Weekly cost total is \$1,300

Tizku L'Mitzvot, Amen!

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