

Congregation

◆◆◆"Beth Yosef"◆◆◆

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

**Rabbi Aharon Farhi**

*Parashat Yitro*

24<sup>th</sup> Shevat 5781

*Maqam Husseni*

Issue #925

**Mr. Eliyahu Levy, President**

*Haftarat Bishnat Mot*

February 6<sup>th</sup> 2021

*Candle Lighting 5:01pm \* Shekiah 5:19pm \* Shir Hashirim 5:00pm followed by Minha Friday Night  
Shaharit Shabbat 8:15am \* Minha Shabbat 4:45pm \* Shabbat Ends 6:02pm & Rabbenu Tam 6:32pm  
Time for Talit 6:00am \* Seasonal Hour 6:00 \* Alot Hashahar 5:48am \* Netz Hachama 7:01am  
Weekday Minha 5:10pm \* Earliest Time for Arbit 4:41pm \* Tzet Hacoachavim 5:57pm \* Chatzot 12:09  
Latest Time for Morning Keriat Shema 8:53am \* Latest Time for Morning Amidah 9:54am*

**Friday February 12<sup>th</sup> and Shabbat February 13<sup>th</sup> will be Rosh Hodesh Adar**

*Shovevim Fasting: Thursday February 4<sup>th</sup> fast starts 5:56am and ends 5:42pm*

*Monday February 8<sup>th</sup> fast starts 5:54am and ends 5:47pm*

*Thursday February 11<sup>th</sup>, last day of Shovevim fasting, fast starts 5:43am and ends 5:51pm*

*Those who wish to contact R' Farhi can call (646) 512-3412*

*To sponsor, please mail your donation to:*

**Vaad Tehilim Torah c/o R' A. Farhi**

**2415 Ocean Parkway, Brooklyn NY 11235**

Please do not read this bulletin during Tefillah or Keriat Hatorah

This week's Parasha is so special, so important, as it includes Matan Torah, a gift directly from the King of the world, to his nation, his children, Bnei Yisrael. The Torah is the ultimate gift of all time. Our holy nation has guarded it and cherished it in our hearts throughout the generations ever since. Hashem descended from the heavens above, on to a humble mountain, in a desert void of most everything, and presented the Torah to man. Har Sinai, Midbar Sinai, and our nation, all with Hashem as one. What is the Torah? Is it just a book? Pages? Lines and lines written with letter after letter? That might be how the other nations describe the Torah, as if it is just a knowledge to be learned and understood. However, we have a different understanding. The stories within are not just for the eyes, ears, and mouth. The Mitzvot are not just directives and instructions. The Torah is the blueprints of creation itself, saturated with secrets and deepness that man cannot even begin to properly understand. The true depth of the Torah lies in the explanations that are not easily accessible and attainable. The nations of the world cannot understand such concepts. They just want to know what is written in the Torah,

but the Torah is so much more than that. There are so many Pesukim that are difficult to really understand, such as when Hashem said during creation, "Let us make man". The Torah relates how Hashem calls our nation His firstborn, his children, many times. In Neviim and Ketuvim as well, there are Pesukim that state that Hashem so to speak sits upon an exalted throne up high, as if Hashem acts as a human, many times referring to His eyes, His hand, and other such human functions. Hashem does not have a body or anything even remotely similar. Hashem is divine light of no bounds or measure. Such Pesukim are written only to give us some type of relative understanding. Throughout history, the greatest of our nation devoted their time and energy to learning Torah, becoming great leaders with outstanding wisdom and intuition, including: Neviim, Geonim, Tanaim, Amoraim, authors of Tosafot, and commentators, all Sages from which we learn how to live and grow in spirituality, from which great unbelievable miracles were produced. They were not far from being considered as angels walking on earth. They denied themselves the mundane pleasures of this world and chose to remain in the four

Amot of Torah constantly, always, learning Torah for consecutive hours, days, weeks, months, and years. Their life is steeped in the hidden treasures of Halacha, fulfilling the words: Hashem desires for a resting place in this world, for the righteous to merit the Shechinah's presence, in which Hashem reveals the secrets of the Torah. Each generation we praise Hashem's creation, with faith and trust in Hashem, validating Moshe Rabbenu's teachings, as we all claim with one mouth and one heart: This is the Torah that Moshe received from Hashem and gave over to Bnei Yisrael. We cherish it, we embrace it, and we sacrifice for it. We endure through exile with it, for it, through bitter persecutions and oppositions, and never falter. We've perished at times at the mercy of hunger and libels, we were incinerated in gas ovens, tortured through terrible means, all for the sake of observing Hashem's commandments, to the point that we as a holy nation are in fact one with Hashem and the Torah, intertwined, forever and ever. May Hashem watch over us, Amen.

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

**1** – How could Yitro state that he now knows that Hashem is the greatest from *all other gods* – this sounds like he believes in other gods having power and legitimacy? The answer is, he is saying that *now* he knows that Hashem is the greatest and the *only* One – how? – from all other gods, since he himself had tried worshipping all possible types of deity and realized through process of elimination that not only is Hashem the greatest, he is the *only* One as well.

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

*50 years after the Temple's destruction, in the year 118AD.* When the father of Rebi Akiva passed away, the nation mourned along with the Gadol Hadol, whose mourning was limited due to the honor of his great position. The second son of Rebi Akiva, Rebi Yehoshua Ben Karcha, had a powerful devotion and dedication to only learning Torah, just like his father. When he married, he stipulated that she

would support the family while he learned Torah, and she did so even when years of famine came to their area and times were very difficult. Rebi Akiva's daughter was like her mother Rachel. She married Ben Azai on condition that he devote all his time and energy to learning Torah. He was a colleague of his father-in-law Rebi Akiva, and added to his words. When they could not earn enough to live, he divorced his wife. When he taught that one who is not involved in procreation is considered a murderer, and was then questioned for his own actions, he answered that he had no choice, as Torah was the most important ambition in his life, while the world can procreate through the efforts of others.

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

Bone growth and health requires calcium, and vitamin D helps the blood and body absorb the calcium. The more vitamin D a person has, the better the absorption of calcium. If a person makes sure to have enough vitamin D from a young age, he can prevent bone problems developing in the future. As a person ages, his bones gradually weaken over time. Weakened bones are more susceptible to breaks and fractures in the event of an injury or a fall. There are a number of medications that have the side effect of reducing calcium levels in the body. Such medication, even though they may be important for the heart, liver, or other organs, needs to be supplemented with calcium and vitamin D in order to maintain a healthy level of calcium in the body and promote bone strength. Speak to your doctor when taking medications and ask if you should make sure to properly supplement calcium levels, as well as vitamin D.

### ***Mussar: Tikun of the Soul***

We must understand that our souls have been created by Hashem the Creator and Master of everything. They are portioned directly from Hashem. The soul resides in, and is clothed by, the intelligence and understanding of man, and is grouped with the physical and mundane thoughts. When a person fulfills the Torah and

purifies his mind, he is revealing his soul and releasing it from its binds to the mundane and physical. He has uncovered it from its wraps and he becomes a purified being. However, if a person thinks improperly and stores impurity within his mind, then he is suffocating the soul and embarrassing it. One must correct and complete his soul, not harm it. He is distancing himself from Hashem and his soul from its pure source. Suddenly, Hashem isn't helping him and the problems begin. He can't think straight or correctly as he has invited the impurity into his thoughts. He distances further and further away and everything seems black and depressing. Everything is Hashem's and He sustains all. If a horse is trotting, if a fruit is growing, if the sun is rising, and if technology is developing, everything is from Hashem. Impurity destroys your soul and distances you from Hashem, the source of all blessings. Have mercy on yourself and your soul and only act and think with purity, for fortunate are we in this world and the next when we succeed in doing so. May Hashem merit us, Amen.

#### **Rishon LeSion: R' Yonah Navon 1765-1841**

During the days of R' Yonah, there was a Shul of Rebi Yehuda Chassid, known as Churbah. It had stood for many years desolate and depreciated, and had passed into the hands of a non-Jewish resident of the area. During that time, many Jews immigrated from Europe who wished to redeem and restore that Shul. For a nice sum of money, they hoped to purchase it and make it a miniature Mikdash for prayers and Torah learning. They asked the Rishon LeSion R' Yonah for political assistance in moving forward with their plan. R' Yonah spared no energy in helping with this plan, and eventually after much persuasion and cost they were able to transfer the property back to the Jewish people, to be used for religious purposes, free of taxation. They then set off renovating it by collecting donations for the worthy project. R' Yonah reached out to the wealthy philanthropist Moshe Monterfiore and asked for his financial assistance. He donated generously, and the project commenced. R'

Yonah served as Rishon LeSion for four quick years, until he passed away on the 23<sup>rd</sup> of Tevet in 1841, as his soul returned to heaven after spending 76 years on this world. May his merits protect us, Amen.

#### **Story**

Reuven, the poor water carrier, who was very hungry, having not eaten breakfast that morning, attended the grand banquet celebration at the home of Shimon the wealthy man, in honor of the beautiful new Sefer Torah that had just been completed. The Rabbanim and dignitaries all sat towards the front of the room, each seated according to their level of importance. Reuven took a seat all the way in the back of the room at the end of the table, hoping that the food would be served soon and that he wouldn't be particularly noticed in his simple clothing. First, Shimon got up and gave a lengthy opening speech. Then, one after another, the Rabbanim and dignitaries went up to the podium and spoke words of praise about Shimon and his magnificent new Sefer Torah, as well as some Divre Torah. Time passed as Reuven's stomach growled with hunger. Words were not spared, yet the food was still not served after an extended period of time. How much longer will all these speeches take? What should he do? How much longer can he last with this hunger?

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

It is a very bad sin to hate a Jew. If someone wronged you, do not hate him or speak negatively about him, rather approach him and ask him why he has done something wrong to you. If he asks forgiveness, then try to be understanding and give him forgiveness. Do not only love the Rabbanim, the righteous, and those who are more careful to fear heaven and act appropriately, while hating others who live in sin and do the wrong things. Rather, find it in your heart to be understanding, do not have a closed heart, and try to forgive those who might not even deserve it. Love everyone, except informants and heretics, as it is a Mitzvah to hate those who are hated by Hashem.

### **Laws:**

**1** – If one is eating rice with vegetables, he recites a blessing on the rice and it covers the vegetables, specifically if they are mixed together in the dish.

**2** – However, if the rice and vegetables are separate on your plate, then it is good to recite a blessing on the vegetables, but some argue otherwise. To be safe, recite Ha'adamah on something else completely. Or, take a first spoonful of rice and vegetables together, and say Mezonot according to everyone.

### **Sponsors**

\*\*\* **Mr. Eli Levy, his wife Becky, and their children.** Blessings, health, and success for the entire family, Mazal Tov to the bride and groom **Binyamin and Chana Anita**, Mabrouk, Amen. \*\*\* **The young man Joe Farah Hamra, his parents, and his siblings.** Blessings and success for the entire family, may Hashem give him success in all that he does, Amen. \*\*\* **Mr. Yehoshua Hudrie, his wife Suzan, and their children.** Blessings and success for the entire family, he proclaims before all: **Thank you Hashem for all the good you grant me, and for healing me from the Coronavirus, praise Hashem!** Amen. \*\*\* **Mr. Farah Hamra, his wife Dina, and their children.** Blessings and success for the entire family, Leilui Nishmat his sister **Rachel Bat Latifah a"h**, and Leilui Nishmat his sister **Loris Bat Latifah a"h**, Amen. \*\*\* **Mr. Nouriel Algada and his children.** Blessings and success for the entire family, please join us for a Derush Leilui Nishmat their mother **Rachel Bat Latifah a"h**, Wednesday night 7:00pm in Ahi Ezer, Tizku L'Mitzvot, Amen. \*\*\* **Mrs. Hanriett Zarif Shami, her husband R' Avraham, and their children.** Blessings and success for the entire family, Leilui Nishmat her father **Shelomo Ben Simcha a"h**, Amen. \*\*\* **The Jouejati Family.** Blessings and success for the entire family,

Leilui Nishmat their father **Edmon Ben Linda a"h**, and Leilui Nishmat their aunt **Garaz Bat Linda a"h**, Amen. \*\*\* **Mr. Morris Dwek, his wife Rachel, their parents, and their children.** Blessings and success for the entire family, Mazal Tov on the birth of a daughter **Elyce**, Mabrouk, Amen. \*\*\* **Askan Tzibur 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. \*\*\* **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 \$800.*

*Weekly cost total is \$1,300*

*Tizku L'Mitzvot, Amen!*

Since we launched our newly designed website in April 2020, there has been **32,100** visits!

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