

Congregation

◆◆◆"Beth Yosef"◆◆◆

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

Rabbi Aharon Farhi

Parashat Emor

19th Iyar 5781

Maqam Nahwand

Issue #936

Mr. Eliyahu Levy, President

Haftarat VehoCohanim

May 1st 2021

*Candle Lighting 7:33pm * Shekiah 7:51pm * Shir Hashirim 7:00pm followed by Minha Friday Night
Shaharit Shabbat 8:15am * Minha Shabbat 7:15pm * Shabbat Ends 8:34pm & Rabbenu Tam 9:04pm
Time for Talit 4:34am * Seasonal Hour 8:00 * Alot Hashahar 4:18am * Netz Hachama 5:55am
Weekday Minha 7:30pm * Earliest Time for Arbit 6:48pm * Tzet Hacoachavim 8:29pm * Chatzot 12:52
Latest Time for Morning Keriat Shema 8:21am * Latest Time for Morning Amidah 9:42am*

Those who wish to contact R' Farhi can call (646) 552-3412

*It is a great Mitzvah and powerful Segulah to take part in the Tikun Karet,
the sixth day of the sixth week of Sefirat HaOmer, which this year falls out on Friday night 8th Iyar.
Usually we read until Alot Hashahar, but this year we read after the Seudah of Shabbat Friday night.
We read Adra Raba, Adra Zuta, and then either before Shaharit or after Mussaf we read the entire Sefer Tehillim.
This Tikun provides atonement for the harshest of sins, and also provides Segulot for Parnassah and health.
Fortunate are those who take part. Tizku L'Mitzvot, May Hashem bless us, Amen.*

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Mr. Victor Emil Kameo, his wife Miray, their parents, and their children.

May Hashem bless them with physical and spiritual success, Amen.

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Please do not read this bulletin during Tefillah or Keriat Hatorah

Many extra laws, merits, and obligations in the Torah were specifically commanded upon the Cohanim, including, ***If the daughter of a Cohen will be desecrated through adultery, she desecrates her father – she shall be consumed by fire.*** This is a girl who is either married or engaged (Torah standards of engagement) to a Cohen, Levi, Yisrael, or even a Mamzer; if she commits adultery, she is burned, and her accomplice is choked. She desecrates her father and embarrasses his honor, for people will look at her parents and curse them for giving birth and raising such an abomination. As well, she desecrates her father for what he stands for: the Kehunah. She defiles the holiness that carries on to her. Why is she burned? Since the services of a Cohen involves fire. Her punishment is actually harsher, as a married Yisrael is only choked, which is the lightest of the four deaths of Bet Din. Why the difference? Since Cohanim have a better upbringing, as the parents generally dedicate their time learning Torah, thus having the ability to properly teach and raise their children with Torah values, the rebellious actions are therefore multiplied, because the daughter should

have known better. Therefore, the punishment is harsher. Rav Yaakov Yisrael HaCohen teaches us a great lesson from here: An honorable person who sins is worse than a layman who sins. An honorable person who sins has not only embarrassed himself, but has also defaced and insulted all those who honor and respect him. This girl has desecrated and blemished the Kehunah's holiness which she possesses from her father. A Ben Torah who acts out of line desecrates the Torah that he has learned! The crown of Torah that he wears is now situated on a sinner. The greatness of the sin is parallel to the greatness of the person. How great is the responsibility of one who learns Torah! The closer you are to Hashem, the more of a disgrace your sins are considered. We are a holy nation who represent the Torah and Hashem. Be careful, especially those who learn Torah, to never act out of line, for the consequences and results are multiplied. May Hashem watch over us, Amen.

Insights on the Parasha

The Pasuk states that there are fifty days – if so, why do we only count 49 days of the Omer? The

reason is because the Pasuk also says that we count seven weeks, which is 49 days. Even though the Torah wrote the number fifty as well, nonetheless the Torah means that we should count one less than fifty, as we find by the punishment of *Malkut*, lashes, that one is given forty lashes minus one. When Bnei Yisrael initially came down to Egypt, although the Pasuk states that there were seventy people, if you count the names, you will only reach 69. You can therefore split our Pasuk, and read it in a way that the number fifty written is not going on the first part of the Pasuk that refers to counting – rather, place a stop before the word fifty and use it for the next portion of the Pasuk that discusses bringing the sacrifice on the fiftieth day. (*Abudraham*)

Insights on *Pirke Avot*

Hillel says: be a student of Aharon. Why doesn't it say to strive to be *exactly* like Aharon? Because while that will seem like an impossible thing to achieve, we should at least strive to be his student. Also, Hillel is not telling us to learn from Aharon in all areas and follow only in his ways of loving peace; rather, he is instructing us more specifically to be a student of Aharon and follow his character of humility and humbleness. He did not think himself worthy of priesthood when it was granted to him, and he did not become jealous of his younger brother Moshe when Hashem chose him as the leader. We must be the student of Aharon and learn this great lesson of humility and humbleness from him.

Lag Ba'omer (33rd of the Omer)

Lag Ba'omer is a day of celebration and a day of lamentation in honor of the great Tanna, Rabbi Shimon Bar Yohai, may his merits shield us. From the greatest of the 4th generation of Tannaim, he lived 140 years after the Churban (Temple's destruction). He was the author of the 'Zohar', which is the foundation of Torah and Kabbalah. He is the Rabi Shimon that is always mentioned in the Gemara, and after a long life he passed away, after Rabi Yishmael. He first learned in Yavneh, in front of Rabi Yehoshua and Raban Gamliel. Afterwards, he was one of the five students of Rabi Akiba, along with Rabi Yehoshua, Rabi Yehuda ben Baba, Raban Gamliel, and Rabi Elazar ben Yehua. He had 22 students, which included: His son, R' Elazar bar R' Shimon, Rabi Dustai, R' Hanina, R' Yohanan, R' Yirmiya, Rabi Nahas ben Yair, etc. He learned Torah in Bnei Brak by Rabi Akiba for 13 years. Rabi Akiba loved him, called him his son, and told him, *It is sufficient for you that I and the Creator both recognize your spirit (Sanhedrin)*. Rabi Shimon bar Yohai came to Rabi Akiba and learned Torah from him even in difficult times. Many times, in the Mishnah we find the two discussing a law. Once Rabi Shimon bar Yohai realized a sense of disrespect towards his Rav and therefore fasted many fasts, until his teeth turned black, in order to rectify the situation. 'Sifri' (*Medrash Halacha for Bamidbar and Devarim*) is by

default the words of Rabi Shimon bar Yohai, consisting of what he had learned from Rabi Akiba with his four friends. The students relied upon Rav Yehuda ben Baba. Many times, there were arguments with Rabi Yehuda and Rabi Meir. Rabi Shimon bar Yochai witnessed the Romans combing the skin of Rabi Akiba with iron combs just because he learnt Torah. He therefore became rebellious against the Roman authority. Once, he sat with Rav Yehuda, Rav Yossi, and Rav Yehuda ben Garim, and discussed the many decrees the Romans established only for their benefit. Rav Yehuda ben Garim was not careful and told others what Rabi Shimon bar Yohai had said. The words soon reached the authorities and Rabi Shimon bar Yohai was decreed with the death penalty. First, he hid in the Bet Midrash of his son, Rabi Elazar, but then he hid in a cave. Through a miracle, he gained sustenance from a Carob tree that grew in the cave just for him, and he drew water from a well. In order that his clothes would not wear out, he wore them only during prayers. All the while he was in hiding, he learnt Torah and distanced from worldly matters. After 12 years the Caesar died and the decree against him was annulled. When they left the cave, they saw people planting and plowing fields. *"You have forsaken the eternal life for a temporary one"* he would tell them. A sound from Heaven was heard – *"Have you come out to destroy my world?! Go back into the cave!"* After another year, he finally left the cave. He told his son, *"It is enough for the world to have just you and me"* – But when he saw how precious and beloved the Mitzvot were to Bnei Yisrael, they were comforted. Rashbi (Rabi Shimon bar Yohai) said that he could atone the entire world from judgment. He was able to perform miracles. When the government decreed harshly upon the Jews, Rashbi, along with Rav Elazar bar Yossi, went and overpowered the decrees. He was a shield for his generation and a rainbow never formed in his days. Rashbi passed away on the 33rd of the Omer (18 Iyar) and was buried in Miron. Praying by his grave, as many do, especially on the 33rd of the Omer, brings great protection and help from Hashem. It is very good to recite, ***Bar Yochai Nimshachta Ashrecha***. We glorify the day with Torah learning and candle lighting Leilui Nishmat Rashbi. Please join us in Bet Knesset Beth Yosef Wednesday night May 22nd at 8:30pm for the reciting of Hillulah. May this Mitzvah and his great memory and merits shield and protect us, Amen.

Health and Recovery

Anyone who can prevent himself or others from smoking is obligated to do so. One who is addicted must work as hard as possible to quit this nasty habit of smoking. One is especially not supposed to smoke in public areas, or near anyone else, as second-hand smoke is quite harmful as well. Many leaders of our times, Rabbi Elyashiv, Rabbi Shteinman, Rabbi Spira, Rabbi Lefkovitz, and others have all ruled in Halacha that it is prohibited to try even one cigarette, because smokers always start with

just one before it snowballs into a full-blown addiction. The Rambam writes: whoever brings something harmful into the body transgresses the positive biblical commandment to guard your health carefully. It is scientifically proven that those who smoke, without a doubt, bring death closer and approach death sooner, as their health deteriorates, their bodies weaken, their hearts are affected, and in many cases, they contract sickness and disease. Therefore, it is completely against the Torah's laws to smoke, even and especially at a young age. Those who heed these words will merit health, longevity, and Hashem will bless them with strength and happiness, Amen.

Mussar: Intellect and Belief

Many problems arise when people lack in their belief and are not thinking properly. Some think that they are capable of understanding everything, and what they cannot understand is therefore not possible and not real. A person must realize that he is only flesh and blood and what he cannot understand can very well exist and be true nonetheless. A wise man knows that he can neither know nor understand everything. He therefore works and toils throughout his entire life to amass whatever little fraction of the vast amounts of knowledge he possibly can in order to know whatever he can about the truth. A parable can provide a little more clarity: a person is riding in a carriage and does not know if he is going in the right direction. It is one thing to not know, but shouldn't he at least stop and figure it out before he continues going possibly further and further in the wrong direction?! We know so little when it comes to the studies of biology, chemistry, physics, and other forms of worldly knowledge. Most live their entire life only knowing a very small fraction of the possible knowledge that they know exists. If so, how true must this be concerning spiritual knowledge that is not readily available to us, and how much spiritual knowledge there must be that we cannot even begin to understand, the likes of which are the pillars of the world. Therefore, we must humbly accept and believe that the Torah and the teachings of our Sages are completely true and not always within our understanding. Even if we may not grasp the understanding, our soul most definitely knows the truth. May Hashem protect us always, Amen.

Rishon LeSion:

R' Avraham Chaim Gagin 1787-1848

Many residents of Jerusalem during those days lacked food, nutrition, vitamins, doctors, and were often sick, even bedridden, due to their overall poor health. The Christians opened a hospital in Jerusalem, employed

many doctors and nurses from other areas, and provided free healthcare for the needy. Those who were treated there were also taught about the Christian religion in detail, so the Rabbanim had to ban Jews from entering the hospital, and the Jewish people sacrificed by not using those medical resources even when desperately in need. The Maskilim also built a hospital, to likewise influence the Jewish people with their mission. What did they do? They reached out to the well-known philanthropist Moshe Montefiore and asked him for a donation in order to build a hospital that will enable many to learn Torah. Understanding the need for a hospital, but not knowing that they were Maskilim, he graciously agreed to provide funding for the project.

Story

At the door of the great Rebbe, R' Tzvi Hersh, of the Liska Hasidic Dynasty, was a long line of students and followers patiently waiting for a blessing. Last in line was R' Yisrael Shlomo HaLevi, a tall, wealthy, and respected member of the community. Those days he was not as popular, for many had learned of his fall from greatness, his depreciation in financial standings, and unable to hide this truth, he went to the Rebbe for a blessing to restore his fortune and public standing. With slumped shoulders, he entered the Rebbe's room and asked for a blessing to marry off his oldest daughter with dignity. The Rebbe, seeing this man pouring tears from his eyes, asked if there was something wrong with the suitor of his engaged daughter – was he not learned in Torah? Why was he sad instead of happy? No! The groom was indeed a fine young man who would make his daughter happy. Unfortunately, the father of the groom had requested a large dowry for his son, and now that it was time to pay up, he did not have the resources to do so. When he had originally agreed to the terms, he was able to fulfill his words without issue, but once he had signed off, his Mazal changed and his fortune disappeared. Now he was in debt, unable to support his family through his business, and suffered day and night from the pressure and stress.

Laws: Yom Tov

1 – One is forbidden to prepare anything – cooking, baking, and even setting the table – from one day of the holiday to the next. One may cook a large pot of food with the intentions to eat it during the upcoming weekday, Shabbat, or Second Holiday as long as he eats a little bit during that Yom Tov and does not explicitly state his true intentions. This is allowed only if he is cooking before lunchtime. However, if it is past lunchtime, then he may not do this, since he

really does not need the food for now and is only performing trickery alone.

2 – One may take medication or pain relievers during Yom Tov, but may not use creams or ointments.

3 – One may not squeeze fruits for their juices, with the exception of a lemon squeezed for food, provided that you do not use a vessel designed for this purpose.

4 – One may use a cheese grater during Yom Tov provided that he changes the way he usually does it, i.e. he grates the cheese straight onto the table instead of into something.

5 – One may do Borer (picking and choosing), with his hands and not with a vessel, for that day. Whether the part you want is more, or the part you don't want is more, you always remove the fewer amounts in order to limit the toil.

6 – One may smoke cigarettes on Yom Tov (lit from an existing fire) only if he is accustomed to smoking and not doing so would bring him pain. However, one who is not accustomed to smoking may not smoke a cigarette.

7 – Fruits from a fruit tree during Yom Tov may not be touched and certainly not eaten. However, after Yom Tov one may eat them.

8 – Extinguishing electricity or a fire, even partially (i.e. lowering an oven/stove) is forbidden. One may not even ask a non-Jew to do the act. However, one may lower a gas fire in order not to burn the food but not in order to save gas.

9 – However, one may extinguish a gas fire indirectly. This is done, for example, by filling up a kettle to the rim with water and letting it boil until it overflows and extinguishes the flame. Since the prohibition is only Derabanan (Rabbinical origin), Gerama (causing indirectly) is permissible. However, one should use some of the hot water for tea or coffee in order to have cooked it for the purpose of consumption.

Sponsors

*** **Mr. Zouki Metta, his wife Stella, and their children.** Blessings and success for the entire family, Amen. *** The young man **Mr. Jonathan Boroman, his mother, and his siblings.** Blessings and success for the entire family, Amen. *** **Mr. Ted Levy, his wife Silia, and their children.** Blessings and success for the entire family, Leilui Nishmat his father

Eliyahu Ben Simcha a"h, and Leilui Nishmat his brother **Toby Ben Altoon a"h,** Amen. *** **Mr. Isaac Zarif, his wife, and their children.** Blessings and success for the entire family, Leilui Nishmat his father **Shlomo Ben Altoon a"h,** Amen. *** **The Arazi Family.** Blessings and success for the entire family, Leilui Nishmat **Shlomo Ben Amhie a"h,** Amen. *** **Mr. Ovadia Eliahou, his wife Nouna, and their children.** Blessings and success for the entire family, Refuah Shelemah for **Ovadia Ben Nazima,** Amen. *** **Mr. Isaac Anbi and his children.** Blessings and success for the entire family, Leilui Nishmat their mother **Eva Aysha Bat Liza a"h,** Amen. *** **Blessed siblings: Dibo, Mordechai, Sami, Touni, Ketty, Lina, and Nadia of the Kafif Family.** Blessings and success for the entire family, Leilui Nishmat their mother **Olga Bat Zakie a"h,** 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. *** **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. *** **Blessed siblings: Soly and Hillel Bawabe.** Blessings and success for the entire family, Leilui Nishmat their mother **Rachel Bat Shafika 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 \$1700.

Weekly costs total \$1300. Tizku L'Mitzvot, Amen!

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