

Congregation



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

**Rabbi Aharon Farhi**

*Parashat* **Behar Bechukotai**

26<sup>th</sup> Iyar 5781

*Maqam Saba*

Issue #937

**Mr. Eliyahu Levy, President**

*Haftarat* **Uzi UMa'Uzi**

May 8<sup>th</sup> 2021

*Candle Lighting 7:40pm \* Shekiah 7:58pm \* Shir Hashirim 7:00pm followed by Minha Friday Night  
Shaharit Shabbat 8:15am \* Minha Shabbat 7:20pm \* Shabbat Ends 8:41pm & Rabbenu Tam 9:11pm  
Time for Talit 4:25am \* Seasonal Hour 82:00 \* Alot Hashahar 4:08am \* Netz Hachama 5:47am  
Weekday Minha 7:30pm \* Earliest Time for Arbit 6:54pm \* Tzet Hacoachavim 8:36pm \* Chatzot 12:52  
Latest Time for Morning Keriat Shema 8:14am \* Latest Time for Morning Amidah 9:36am*

**Wednesday May 12<sup>th</sup> will be Rosh Chodesh Sivan**

*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, Yesod ShebeYesod,**  
the **sixth day of the sixth week** of Sefirat HaOmer, which this year falls out on **Friday night 26<sup>th</sup> 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.*

*To sponsor our weekly publication, please mail your donation to:*

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

**2415 Ocean Parkway, Brooklyn NY 11235**

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Please do not read this bulletin during Tefillah or Keriat Hatorah

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With Hashem's help we are completing Sefer Vayikra this week with the reading of the final two Parashiot, Behar and Bechukotai. We can learn a great deal from the ten Parashiot included in Sefer Vayikra, which in fact follow a common theme that is carried throughout many topics: the holiness, sanctity, and purity of our special nation. This includes spirituality and physicality alike. We will discuss each Parasha in turn. The first three Parashiot discuss the sanctity of the Mikdash, the services, and sacrifices. The next Parashiot, Tazria and Metzora, discuss a newborn and its mother, the holiness of Milah for the son, and the purity process of the mother after birth through bringing a sacrifice. It then discusses the purity of a man's body, home, and clothing, regarding the Tzaraat infliction. Within these Parashiot it also discusses what we are allowed to eat and what we are not, in order to live with purity. Next, in Parashat Achare Mot, we learn about Yom Kippur, the holy day on which Bnei Yisrael are purified from their sins. This is followed with the commandment to be holy and

pure, to distance oneself from promiscuity and immorality. Parashat Kedoshim commands us to conduct ourselves with each other in a manner of honesty, love, and respect. Parashat Emor discusses the holiness of Cohanim who were chosen to serve in the Bet Hamikdash on behalf of our nation. Many instructions and restrictions are listed, such as the prohibition of becoming impure for a dead body. Bnei Yisrael are obligated to honor Cohanim and sanctify them. The Torah also discusses the sanctity of time throughout the calendar year, including Rosh Chodesh, Shabbat, and Holidays. This week the Parasha discusses the holiness of Israel, including the laws of Shemitah on the seventh year of the cycle, which is an entire year that represents the holiness of Israel through non-activity, thus sanctifying the nation that dwells upon it and blesses the produce. We conclude Sefer Vayikra with Parashat Bechukotai, the 33<sup>rd</sup> Parasha of the Torah, which is read during the week of the 33<sup>rd</sup> of the Omer, and includes 33 blessings for those who fulfill the Torah, followed with 33

Pesukim of warnings and punishment for those who forsake and transgress the Torah. This week, due to our unfortunate abundance of sin, we are in mourning for the tragic loss of the lives of so many holy souls, who passed away on the 33<sup>rd</sup> of the Omer, right next to the resting place of the holy Tana Rabi Shimon Bar Yochai. They passed away in holiness, purity, and ascended from the gravesite of Rabi Shimon Bar Yochai straight to his portion in Gan Eden, to be close to him on the special day. They passed away like the children of Aharon, Nadav and Avihu. We cry out, enough of all the suffering! Their souls ascended in holiness, from a holy place, on a holy day, from within a holy collection of people, on the holy Erev Shabbat, while so many traveled in holiness within Israel. We are all in mourning over the loss of so many lives so quickly, sacrificed for our nation. May they be a source of Nahat Ruah before Hashem, may the suffering cease, may we be blessed with consolation, and may Hashem watch over us, Amen.

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

If one has designated a specific animal for a specific sacrifice, and instead now he states that he will bring a different animal instead, then he will be punished with lashes, and has transgressed a negative commandment in the Torah. Usually, lashes are not given for a negative transgression that does not include an action, however there are a few exceptions in which speaking is enough, i.e. cursing or swearing with Hashem's name. Usually when a negative commandment is connected with a positive commandment, i.e. Sheluach Haken, the negative being not to take the mother with the offspring, and the positive being sending away the mother, then lashes is not given in such a case. However, here there are two negatives and no positive, so he is given lashes.

#### **Insights on Pirkei Avot**

***One who says, "What's mine is yours and what's yours is mine" is an Am Haaretz, a simpleton.*** Rav Simcha Bunim explains: Hashem controls everything, however, Hashem has given man control of his Yirat Shamayim, fear of heaven. An Am Haaretz is one who reverses this, as follow: one who says to Hashem, *what's mine is yours*, meaning my Yirat Shamayim is really not in my control but in the control of heaven, and also says, *what's yours is mine*, meaning I really control everything else i.e.

all my success and achievements are due to my own strengths and abilities, such a person has completely reversed the roles, and is categorized as an utter simpleton.

#### **History in Brief**

*70 years after the Temple's destruction, in the year 138AD.* During this time, on the 9<sup>th</sup> of Av, as Bnei Yisrael were mourning the destruction of the Temple, the wife of Caesar Trajan gave birth to a son, but after four months, on the night of Chanukah, the son died. The Sages did not know if it would be dangerous to celebrate Chanukah and light the Menorah, as it would appear that they were mourning during the child's birth and celebrating during the child's death. The wife of the Caesar reported that the Jews were rebelling, that they were overjoyed by the death of her baby. The Caesar gathered his soldiers, went to Jerusalem, and began slaying Jewish men. The wives came out and cried out for them to stop. Why were they doing this? The Romans conditioned that if the women would marry the soldiers, then the killing would stop. When the women declined, their blood was spilled next, mixed with the blood of their husbands. That year thousands of Greeks and Romans died as the ground quaked in Turkey, destroying buildings and killing their livestock.

#### **Health and Recovery**

Hagaon Rabbi Moshe Sternbuch writes: there was a certain Torah scholar who smoked heavily for many years until he became sick and the doctors told him he had maybe a month to live due to the extensive damage to his lungs. He gathered ten men, and told them that he knew that heaven considers him to have wasted himself away and that he was to blame for smoking all those years, however, he hoped that Hashem would accept his regret, remorse, and repentance, if he would at least reach out to others and convince them to stop smoking before it was too late. Our Sages teach us: if one allows himself to waste away towards death, for the purpose of Torah learning, we do not quote him in words of Torah. All the more so we do not validate or recognize someone who allows cigarettes, a type of false enjoyment, to destroy his body and shorten his life. Likewise, we must refrain from eating cakes and sweets made from white flour, as we do not understand what we are eating, whether we are young or old. We may be enjoying the taste momentarily, but once the foodstuff goes down the

throat, it damages the body, thickening the blood clogging the arteries, causing high blood pressure, and causes diabetes and the need for insulin. Hashem with kindness made wheat so that it would be healthy to eat naturally, but we process it and remove so much that it becomes even dangerous to eat in large quantities over time. We should not bring white flour or products made from white flour into our homes, to avoid the harmful and unhealthy effects.

### **Mussar: *Mother's Day***

Once a year there is an official Mother's Day on which a son or daughter buys a present, makes a party, and does something special for their mother. This is a worthwhile tradition, as it fulfills the Mitzvah of honoring one's mother, but it is not enough to just give a present once a year, one should spend time with their mother, listen to her, talk with her, laugh and share with her every day. Hashem gave mothers a special intuition and wisdom that is worthwhile to heed whenever they talk to us. We must honor her not just with words, but with actions as well, by fulfilling her requests and needs, even when it is very difficult. Accept her opinion even when you disagree and do not argue or complain. Fulfilling such a Mitzvah will bring blessings not only in the next world but in this world as well. Our Sages teach us: even if she tells you that your left is really your right, you should not argue and just agree out of respect, with a smile. This applies to a grandmother as well. This can be fulfilled easily, and you will have fulfilled a positive biblical commandment. Many people spend a lot of money to open the Hechal for the Torah, to be a Sandak at a Brit Milah, but while those are special performances to enhance a Mitzvah, honoring a parent is a direct Mitzvah from the Torah, one of the Ten Commandments. May Hashem merit us to fulfill this Mitzvah, Amen.

### **Rishon LeSion:**

#### ***R' Avraham Chaim Gagin 1787-1848***

When the Maskilim wanted to build a hospital in Jerusalem, to heal the Torah scholars and the needy for free, but to also have the opportunity to influence the Jewish people with their mission, they reached out to the well-known philanthropist Moshe Montefiore and asked him for a large donation in order to build the hospital that will enable many to continue learning Torah in good health. Understanding the need for a hospital, but not knowing that they were Maskilim, he graciously

agreed to provide funding for the project. When R' Avraham heard about this, he immediately sent a letter to Montefiore explaining that this gesture was not appreciated by the Rabbanim, and it could potentially cause many Jews to be led off the true path of Torah in life. The response came quickly, and Montefiore withdrew his donation, explaining that his sole purpose was to promote Torah, not go against it. The hospital was not built. A short while later R' Avraham became very sick. He heard a knock on his door one day, and a non-Jew entered and told R' Avraham that he was a doctor from the mission who understood his sickness and would be able to provide healing. R' Avraham did not want any help from a missionary and sent him on his way.

### ***Story***

Yisrael, a wealthy man who recently lost his money and business, stood before R' Hersch, asking what he should do about his oldest daughter, who he was marrying off, but now could not afford the large dowry he had promised. He feared that the future in-laws would break the match, just because he was no longer wealthy. For himself, he could accept the pains of poverty, but what will be with his daughter, who received letters every day that if the amount wasn't paid then the marriage would not happen. The Rebbe understood this was simply a monetary issue. He pointed to the pile of money on the table, from all the donations he received from his students, and asked him if this amount would be sufficient for the dowry.

### **Laws: *Shavuot***

- 1** – It is best to recite Kiddush after Tzet Hachachar (8:44pm) on the night of Shavuot in order that the seven weeks would be complete. However, one may pray before this time.
- 2** – It is customary to stay awake the entire night and learn Torah from 11:30pm until Alot Hashachar 3:57am. The Baal Shem Tov says that one who learns this night and doesn't sleep will have a great and easy year. He will merit both this and the next world. Hashem will crown us with the 70 blessings and crowns of above. This custom only applies to men.
- 3** – One must be careful not to speak wasteful words or use his time unwisely by joking around, for one who does is considered sleeping.
- 4** – One may not recite Birkat HaTorah until Alot Hashachar, which is 72 minutes before Netz

Hachama. This year it is 3:57am. We have the custom to recite the entire Birchot Hashachar except Netillat Yadayim and Asher Yatzar. If one uses the bathroom, then he could recite Asher Yatzar also.

**5** – Strengthen yourself like a lion to pray Shaharit on Shavuot. Make sure you are awake during the Torah reading. Hashem says to Bnei Yisrael, *Those who read and listen to the 10 commandments each year on Shavuot is considered to be standing before Me accepting the Torah from atop Har Sinai.*

**6** – It is customary to have Besamim and flowers in the Shul and in our houses in honor of Shavuot.

**7** – We have the custom to eat dairy on Shavuot as well as honey.

**8** – One may not dance or clap his hands in applause during Shabbat or Yom Tov. We have the custom to read Tehillim and Azharot, for it is the time that David Hamelech passed away.

**9** – Yehi Shem is recited until and including the 12<sup>th</sup> of Sivan, as well as on the 13<sup>th</sup> because of the miracle in Aram Soba.

#### **Sponsors**

\*\*\* **Mr. Toby Cohen, his wife Shella, their parents, and their children.** Blessings and success for the entire family, wishing a Happy Mother's Day to his mother **Rosette**, to her mother **Arlett**, and to his wife **Shella**. May they be blessed with health, longevity, and wealth, Amen. \*\*\* **Mr. Edmond Mordechai Guindi HaCohen, his wife Margo, their parents, and their children.** Blessings and success for the entire family, Amen. \*\*\* **Mr. Rimon Shakalo, his wife Linda, their parents, and their children.** Blessings and success for the entire family, Mazal Tov on the birth of a grandson **Rachamim**, Mabrouk, Amen. \*\*\* **Mr. Joe Rephael Sardar, his wife Bella, and their children.** Blessings and success for the entire family, Amen. \*\*\* **Mr. Jack Shakalo, his wife Kamo, and their children.** Blessings and success for the entire family, Amen. \*\*\* **Minyan Minha Bet Aharon.** Blessings and success for all the congregants, Amen. \*\*\* **Mr. Edmond Hacham Zaki Sardar, his wife Viki, their parents, and their children.** Blessings and success for the entire family, Amen. \*\*\* **Mrs. Berta Cohen and her children: Rafi, Joe,**


**Vivian, and July.** Blessings and success for the entire family, Leilui Nishmat their father **Daniel Ben Eshe a"h**, 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. \*\*\* **Blessed siblings of the Ishay Family and their mother Youla.** Blessings and success for the entire family, Leilui Nishmat their father **Ezra Ben Margo a"h**, Amen.

*This week's sponsorship total is \$1600.  
Weekly costs total \$1300. Tizku L'Mitzvot, Amen!*

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