

Congregation

◆◆◆"Beth Yosef"◆◆◆

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

**Rabbi Aharon Farhi**

*Parashat Vayera*

17<sup>th</sup> Cheshvan 5782

*Maqam Nawa*

Issue #956

**Mr. Eliyahu Levy, President**

*Haftarat V'Isha Ahat*

October 23<sup>rd</sup> 2021

*Candle Lighting 5:47pm \* Shekiah 6:05pm \* Shir Hashirim 5:40pm followed by Minha Friday Night  
Shaharit Shabbat 8:15am \* Minha Shabbat 5:25pm \* Shabbat Ends 6:45pm & Rabbenu Tam 7:15pm  
Time for Talit 6:14am \* Seasonal Hour 6:30:00 \* Alot Hashahar 6:01am \* Netz Hachama 7:17am  
Weekday Minha 5:45pm \* Earliest Time for Arbit 5:21pm \* Tzet Hacoachavim 6:40pm \* Chatzot 12:40  
Latest Time for Morning Keriat Shema 9:10am \* Latest Time for Morning Amidah 10:13am*

*Those who wish to contact Rabbi Aharon Farhi can call (646) 552-3412*

*To sponsor our weekly publication, 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

---

*Sarah saw the son of Hagar, the Egyptian, whom she had born to Avraham, Metzahkek, mocking. So she said to Avraham, "Drive out this slave-woman with her son." Sarah noticed that Yishmael was not fit to remain growing up in Avraham's home with her son Yitzchak. What was the reason she gave? "For the son of that slave-woman will not inherit with my son Yitzchak!" This proves that the problem here is in regards to the matter of inheritance. If so, why did Avraham need to banish them from his house, he could have just bequeathed everything to Yitzchak from that point in time while he was still alive? Also, can it be that our matriarch Sarah, a holy and righteous woman, was concerned specifically for inheritance of worldly possessions? Surely Hashem would take care of Yitzchak regardless of Yishmael? Also, why was it necessary for Hashem to instruct Avraham to listen to Sarah, had he himself not noticed the need to banish Yishmael? Also, when Hashem told Avraham to listen to Sarah, the reason of inheritance was again mentioned? The holy Alshich explains: Sarah saw that Yishmael was Metzahkek, meaning specifically involving himself in idolatry and immorality. Sarah was deeply concerned that her son might be influenced in the slightest from the wicked ways of Yishmael, and if so her life would be*

meaningless to her. Avraham was concerned for his son Yishmael. How could he banish his oldest offspring? Sarah explained that Yishmael's mother Hagar was in fact her slave, and therefore her son was really Sarah's possession and responsibility, not Avraham's. This is hinted in the words, "Drive out this slave-woman with her son" – her son, not Avraham's son. Hashem as well told Avraham that Sarah had given him a son, hinting to the fact that Yishmael was not considered his son. What was the sin of Hagar, to be banished along with her son from Avraham's home? Sarah had first approached Hagar and told her that Yishmael was involving himself in idolatry and immorality. She gave Hagar the opportunity to address the issues herself, to rebuke her son and educate him properly. But Hagar did not heed Sarah's words, even though Hagar was one of the first women that Sarah converted and taught the ways of Hashem. Sarah therefore turned to Avraham to banish the mother and the son, first mentioning the mother because it was her responsibility to correct the matter, but she failed intentionally. This is why Hagar also had to be banished, and even more, she was banished first. Hashem agreed with Sarah and advised Avraham to listen to her words. May Hashem watch over us, Amen.

### **Insights on the Parasha**

**1** – The angel that healed Avraham from his Milah was the same angel that saved Lot from Sedom. The question is, we know that angels perform one task. If so, how did this angel perform two tasks? The answer is that this angel in fact only performed one task: to relieve Avraham of pain and suffering. Lot was only saved from Sedom in the merit of his uncle Avraham. The angel therefore healed Avraham's Milah and relieved him of his physical pain, and also saved Lot in order to save Avraham from the emotional pain of mourning over the loss of his nephew Lot.

**2** – When Avraham was commanded to bring his son Yitzchak as a sacrifice, it was Hashem who spoke to him directly, but later when Avraham was told to stop and not actually sacrifice his son, it was an angel that told him to stop, not Hashem. Why? The author of Devash HaSadeh explains: in order to perform something destructive in nature, like slaughtering a son, such a serious commandment can only be given from Hashem directly, however to perform something productive in nature, like not actually slaughtering a son, that can be instructed through an angel sent by Hashem and it is not necessary for Hashem to directly deliver that commandment.

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

*80 years after the Temple's destruction, in the year 150AD.* Rome continued to oppress the Jews with harsh decrees designed to make their lives miserable, specifically by prohibiting Mitzvah performance, as well as learning Torah. They then targeted the holy Hachamim of the Mishnah who give us life through their Torah to this day. A decree was passed against Rebi Akiva and his colleagues, who were known as the ten martyrs. The Romans heard that Rebi Akiva was teaching Torah to groups, as Torah was their life and how they spent their days and nights. On the 5<sup>th</sup> of Tishre, during the ten days of repentance,

the Romans placed Rebi Akiva in prison. The Jewish people fasted on that day, as tens of Jews were also murdered. Before he could decree execution on the Jewish Hachamim, the Caesar's attention turned to a war against the Arabs. Rebi Akiva sat in prison for a long time. When Papus Ben Yehuda was captured, Rebi Akiva asked him why he was now in prison with him. Papus had been the one who challenged Rebi Akiva for putting himself in danger by teaching Torah publicly, but now that he had been imprisoned for foolish reasons, he praised Rebi Akiva who had been imprisoned for something meaningful, learning and teaching Torah.

### ***The Road to Health and Recovery***

We must learn to recognize the symptoms and warning signs of the Alzheimer disease. When one is advanced in age and begins forgetting, having a hard time remembering things, then they should be checked thoroughly by a doctor. Experts warn that it is unwise to overlook these symptoms - better safe than sorry. Recent studies have proven that a large percentage of serious sicknesses can be avoided through early detection and treatment. Specifically younger people have the hardest time detecting the sickness, since they easily brush off any worries and instead blame their careless behavior and unhealthy habits as the culprit for their symptoms. They only truly realize the problem once the sickness has already progressed substantially and caused irreversible damage. When should one who is older start being concerned and decide it is time to be tested? When he starts forgetting where he put his keys. It is true that many people fit into this description, young and old, but this is a clear symptom for those who are old. Today they forget their keys, they forget the names of some grandchildren, and then tomorrow they forget their way home without help. From that point it is too late and the potential dangers are endless. Please be aware and cautious.

### **Rishon LeSion:**

#### ***R' Chaim David Hazan 1789-1869***

Son of R' Raphael Hazan, R' Chaim was one of the great Hachamim who illuminated Jerusalem during his times. He was known as a lion the son of a lion. On one very hot summer day, the people of Jerusalem hid from the sun in their homes. Even a slight breeze was scarce. Suddenly a darkness overcame the land, as the sky seemed to be cast over with a covering, preventing sunlight. The people were stunned, not understanding what was causing this phenomenon. But then they realized that it was a heavy swarm of locusts invading their area, attacking all trees, plants, produce, and vegetation, eating away at everything, destroying anything in their path. In time, all greenery was destroyed, the fields were bare, leaving the people of the city to face a terrible famine. The price of bread suddenly skyrocketed, and fruits were uncommon. Whatever they had in their homes they were very careful with. The people were very distraught.

#### ***Mussar: Seclusion with Hashem***

Seclusion is a very important trait that is greater than the rest. Seclusion means to devote and dedicate a special frame of time to privately speak with Hashem and ask from Hashem what you need. Speaking with Hashem should be done privately where nobody sees and one should ask Hashem to help him come closer to Him and serve Him better, in the best and optimum way. This conversation with Hashem could be conducted in any language and should express whatever is in your heart, whether it is regret or repentance for the past, and the intentions to be closer to Hashem from that point on. Every person should come closer to Hashem using the tools Hashem has given him, each on his own level. The key is consistency – every day one should make an effort to draw closer, as this will also make the day into a happier one. Even if a person can only speak about one

thing with Hashem, that is also a great thing. He should be strong and steadfast, and he should try to do this a few times during the day. The added result: you will see success and salvation in your kids. These conversations with Hashem help void evil decrees without even knowing about their possibilities. A person must know: a Jewish man's sword is his prayer, as this is the connection between Hashem and man. If you see a change in your daily life, don't say it's a coincidence; rather be a devout believer that it's all from Hashem. Ask from Hashem that you shouldn't be put to test, that you should not experience disgrace due to the Yetzer Hara's strong and sharp strategies against man. Who can withstand them? Pray to Hashem so that He will help and save you from the Yetzer Hara. May Hashem watch over us, Amen.

#### ***Story***

In Kiev, Ukraine, the wealthy Jew named Yeshayahu had a son who never spoke in his life. He and his wife took their son to many doctors and healers for help, and tried countless remedies and Segulot, but his voice remained silent. What was all the riches worth if they could not even find help for their son. They were bitter and depressed. It was almost his Bar Mitzvah, a time of happiness and celebration, and yet as his peers rejoiced in the opportunity to read the Torah in Shul and pray as the Sheliah Tzibur by the Tebah, he would just sit in the crowd looking on with envy and bitterness, jealous that he would not be able to do the same without a voice. Yeshayahu and his wife did extensive research, trying to learn of any child known to have such a condition, and what was done if anything to somehow change the outcome. Did any child ever come away from such a challenge with success and began speaking? If so, how was it done? Suddenly, one day they learned of a young boy like their own who had been mute but had successfully started speaking and continued to live a healthy life. In fact, he lived in close

range to Kiev! Yeshayahu quickly filled his wallet with money, ready to pay high prices for a solution if necessary, and traveled to the boy's home. When the boy, Mordechai, invited Yeshayahu into his home, he brought him over to a large oven and began telling him over his story.

### **Laws**

**1** – You cannot give a gift to someone in order to appease and convince him to loan you money, for this is considered interest.

**2** – One may borrow money from a Jewish bank even with interest, with Heter Iska. One should make sure to declare while signing the loan document, or even place near his signature on the document, that this is done with Heter Iska.

**3** – What is Heter Iska? The lender and borrower write a document together. The case is as follows: Reuven gives money to Shimon on condition that he is a partner in business that will receive a percentage, on condition that: 1- The borrower deals responsibly in business, 2- The borrower is careful with watching the money, 3- The borrower gives a report once a month, 4- If the borrower cannot give a report, he can pay a certain monthly amount instead i.e. \$500. Therefore, whoever lends and borrows should write a document with Heter Iska to avoid problems of interest.

### **Sponsors**

\*\*\* **Mr. Rachamim Faks, his wife Touni, and their children.** Blessings and success for the entire family, Mazal Tov to **Mr. Moshe Khouli and his wife Lyzett** on the Bar Mitzvah of their son **Rachamim**, Mabrouk, Amen. \*\*\* **Mr. Ovadia Mouwadeb HaLevi, his wife Touni, and their children.** Blessings and success for the entire family, Amen. \*\*\* **Mr. Shlomo Shoshani, his wife Semadar, and their children.** Blessings and success for the entire family, Amen. \*\*\* **Mr. Larry Hefes, his wife Karen, their parents, and their children.** Blessings and success for the entire family, Amen. \*\*\* **Mr. Abraham Aharon Farhi, his wife Rania, their parents, and their children.** Blessings and success for the entire family,

Refuah Shelemah for **Avraham Ben Galit**, Amen. \*\*\* **Mr. Shlomo Alkada, his wife Rosie, and their children.** Blessings and success for the entire family, Amen. \*\*\* **Mr. Eli Levy, his wife Becky, and their children.** Blessings, health, and success for the entire family, Leilui Nishmat her brother **Marco Ben Jamila a”h**, Amen. \*\*\* **Mr. Victor Guindi HaCohen and his children Henry, Freddy, and Bella.** Blessings and success for the entire family, Leilui Nishmat their mother **Nadia Chaya Bat Victoria a”h**, Amen. \*\*\* **Mr. Leon Farhi, his wife Eva, and their children.** Blessings and success for the entire family, Leilui Nishmat her mother **Rachel Sithon Bat Bahia a”h**, Amen. \*\*\* Askani Tzibur **Mr. Isaac Jade and his family.** Blessings and success for the entire family, Leilui Nishmat his mother **Jamilia Bat Bahie a”h**, Amen. \*\*\* **Blessed siblings: Dibo, Mark, Sammy, Touni, Kety, Lina, and Nadia of the Khafif Family.** Blessings and success for the entire family, Leilui Nishmat their mother **Olga Bat Zakie 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 brothers: Moshe and Aharon Hasbani.** Blessings and success for the entire family, Leilui Nishmat their father **Nissim Ben Hisni a”h**, their mother **Rachel Bat Frieda a”h**, their brother **Avraham Ben Rachel a”h**, and their young sister **Esther Bat Rachel a”h**, Amen. \*\*\* **Mrs. Sofie Shaya Magribi.** Blessings and success for the entire family, Leilui Nishmat their father **Avraham Ben Kona a”h**, Amen.

*This week's sponsorship total is \$1,150.*

*Weekly cost is \$1,350. Tizku L'Mitzvot, Amen!*

Since we launched our newly designed website in April 2020, there has been **63,600** visits!

\* \* \* \* \*

***www.BethYosef.com***