

Congregation

◆◆◆"Beth Yosef"◆◆◆

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

Rabbi Aharon Farhi
Parashat Toledot
2nd Kislev 5782

Maqam Mahour
Issue #958

Mr. Eliyahu Levy, President
Haftarat Masa Devar
November 6th 2021

*Candle Lighting 5:29pm * Shekiah 5:47pm * Shir Hashirim 5:20pm followed by Minha Friday Night
Shaharit Shabbat 8:15am * Minha Shabbat 5:10pm * Shabbat Ends 6:28pm & Rabbenu Tam 6:59pm
Time for Talit 6:33am * Seasonal Hour 6:00 * Alot Hashahar 6:21am * Netz Hachama 7:33am
Weekday Minha 4:30pm * Earliest Time for Arbit 4:08pm * Tzet Hacoachavim 6:23pm * Chatzot 12:39
Latest Time for Morning Keriat Shema 9:21am * Latest Time for Morning Amidah 10:21am*

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After Yitzchak and Rivka prayed a long time for children, they were blessed with twin boys, Yaakov and Esav. The Pasuk tells us that the boys quarreled even while in her womb. They fought over the inheritance of this world and the next world. Esav wanted what he could have and enjoy now, this world. Why would he need anything else after he died from this world? His fatigue and hunger took precedence over all else. While they were young, they were both the precious children of Yitzchak, raised by their holy mother Rivka, both bursting with great potential, grandchildren of our holy patriarch Avraham. However, as they grew older, they made their own choices, and the difference between the two twins became more and more apparent with time. Yaakov chose to follow in the path of his father and grandfather, while Esav chose to enjoy this world as much as possible. A bowl of lentils served as the clear indication of their stark contrast. What was the significance of this bowl of lentils? It was the meal following the passing of Avraham Avinu. Esav wondered: was there a holier man than Avraham Avinu? And yet, he too was vulnerable to death, subject to judgment like everyone else. Whether a person is righteous or wicked, they all ended in death, so understood Esav. He discussed this with Yaakov. Yaakov asked him why he was so tired. Esav explained that he had just murdered a king, Nimrod, and he was

running for his life from the relatives pursuing him to take revenge. Also, he had forced a young woman to be with him, and her family was chasing him as well looking for revenge. Yaakov was appalled! Esav had just committed murder and adultery consecutively, two very serious sins, how can he possibly be fit to serve one day in the Bet Hamikdash sacrificing Korbanot? He was disqualified! He therefore asked Esav to sell him the birthright today. The significance of the word 'today' hints to the fact that he had committed such terrible sins that day. Now, Esav considered his options. On one side of the scale he put the sacrificial services of the birthright, and on the other side of the scale he put the hot bowl of fresh delicious lentils. He was very tired and hungry. He tipped the scale in consideration of his pleasure, and accepted the deal. He disgraced the services, and push aside the rewards of the next world. Until the last day of his life, he blindly chased after worldly pleasures, completely disregarding the next world, and forsaking resurrection. We must learn from this story the importance of realizing that the pleasures of this world are the enemy of Mitzvot and Torah. To serve Hashem, one must distance from world pleasures, otherwise he will be consumed by them, and blindly forsake serving Hashem and earning the real rewards waiting in the next world. We must spend our time learning Torah and performing Mitzvot, for

that is the purpose of our time on this world, and will prepare us for a life in the next world. May Hashem watch over us, Amen.

Insights on the Parasha

1 – Esav planned to kill Yaakov after their father Yitzchak passed away. Can he be so careful with the Mitzvah of honoring one's parents, but not care about the transgression of murder? Did not Hashem command both – what's the difference? Also, why does it say that he was waiting for the days of mourning for his father, why not just say that he was waiting for his father to pass away? What does the mourning period have to do with his calculation? The truth is that Esav's plan was not based on honoring his father and waiting for him to pass away in order to kill his brother. He would have killed Yaakov even during his father's lifetime if given the chance. Rather, a person cannot be harmed while they learn Torah, and are protected through their learning. Yaakov was known as one who sits in the test of Torah, learning without pause. Esav was looking forward to a time when Yaakov would be forced to not learn Torah, when their father passed away and he sat in mourning, as a mourner is not allowed to learn Torah. Yaakov would then be vulnerable without his Torah learning, and Esav would have the best opportunity to kill Yaakov. These were Esav's true intentions. (*Kefalim L'Tushiah*)

History in Brief

80 years after the Temple's destruction, in the year 150AD. As Rebi Akiva sat in the Roman prison, his student Rebi Shimon Bar Yohai came to visit him and asked him to teach him Torah. Rebi Akiva declined, since doing so was dangerous to his life. A voice from heaven said be careful with the Torah of Rebi Akiva. When Tornosrufus returned from the war with the Arabs, he heard that Sages were visiting the prison asking Rebi Akiva about Torah. He became angry and restricted any access to Rebi Akiva, no visitation allowed henceforth. For twelve months Rebi Akiva sat in prison. On Yom Kippur, he was brought before the wicked Tornosrufus for judgment. He sentenced Rebi Akiva to a cruel and unusual death, combing of the flesh using an iron comb. Rebi Akiva accepted the decision made in heaven. With each stroke of the comb tearing into his flesh, he declared that Hashem is righteous and His ways are just, as everything is with judgment. He sanctified the Name of Hashem in front of the nations of the world, teaching all future Jewish generations

how to sacrifice themselves in the Name of Hashem. At that moment, he asked his students if the time for reciting Shema had arrived. They could not believe his level of devotion to Hashem, even while being executed in an extremely painful manner. He explained that one must love Hashem with all his being, even at a time when his body is being destroyed, and what better time to fulfill this than the current opportunity. He recited Shema, and stretched out the last words Hashem Echad until his holy soul departed from his broken body. A voice rang out from heaven, "Fortunate is Rebi Akiva who will merit the next world without facing judgment!" He was one of the greatest Sages to live, after 120 years of life on this world, just as Moshe Rabbenu, Hillel Hazaken, and Rebi Yochanan Ben Zakai had lived 120 years of age. May his merits protect us, Amen.

The Road to Health and Recovery

Parents should try to get their children in the habit of the right kind of diet early on in their life, one with little sugar, very little candy, and without food coloring. Pay attention to the nutritional values of food products, and do not get distracted by impressive packaging. It is appropriate to accustom the children to enjoying the fresh fruits of the season, which are the natural sweets Hashem gives us, such as apples, pears, grapes, citrus fruits, and watermelon. You can also serve them unsweetened dry fruits, such as raisins, dates, plums, and apricots. We must instruct all who give little children sweets: Please, minimize, do not let the bad habits begin and spoil the healthy bodies of our children. Anyone who can help spread this important message will be blessed. Of course, there should always be healthy food available in the house ready to enjoy. When the child comes home hungry and needs to eat, it is appropriate to have vegetables, fruits, and healthy snacks ready. When we educate our children in self-restraint, it will prove vital not only for maintaining their health, but also to ensure their overall success in the future. A smart note regarding education: Many parents make the mistake of asking the children what they want to eat. This is a mistake. The child should not be asked because there is no limit to the child's wishes. You have to give them a choice of selected foods: Can I give you cheese or eggs? An apple or a banana? Etc. You cannot ask him what he wants. It is therefore necessary for every wise person to prepare the correct food and drink not for the purpose of pleasing the taste buds, but with the understanding of what is beneficial to the function,

growth, and overall health of the body in order to benefit all organs.

Rishon LeSion:

R' Chaim David Hazan 1789-1869

When R' Chaim was twenty years old, his father R' Rephael Hazan moved to Israel and asked his son R' Chaim to remain in Turkey to publish his *Sefer Chakre Lev*. With a heavy heart, he watched his great father leave for Israel, never to see him again before his passing. The people of Kushta benefited greatly from R' Chaim, learning from his holiness, pure character, and Torah. He led the people of Kushta as their Rabbi for fifteen years. The people requested from the government that their Rabbi be exempt from taxes, and their request was granted. In 1855, at the age of 66, he decided it was time to move to Israel. He took his grandson R' Eliyahu Hazan with him, a young wise budding scholar, who served as the Rabbi of Alexandria, Egypt. When he arrived in Israel, he was noticed by the current Rishon LeSion, Rabbi Chaim Abulefia, and appointed as his personal right hand, noted for his greatness and spiritual levels. For three years R' Chaim Hazan served as the deputy to the Rishon LeSion, and in the fourth year R' Chaim Abulefia passed away. The Rabbanim agreed that R' Chaim Hazan should take his place as the new Rishon LeSion and serve as their leader. Without pause, he began working hard to improve the Torah establishments in Israel and did all he could to raise the level of Torah in Yerushalayim to greater heights. He authored a number of *Sefarim*, including: *Torat Hazebah*, *Nediv Lev*, and *Yishre Lev*. He served for seven years as the leader, until the 5th of Shevat in 1869 when he passed away and his soul returned to heaven. He was buried on Har Hazetim. May his merits protect us, Amen.

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 and holy 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, otherwise 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.

Story

The wealthy man Yeshayahu and his wife took their son who couldn't speak to visit a young boy named Mordechai, who had a similar condition and had fortunately healed and recovered. Mordechai continues telling over his story of recovery: "My father heard of a holy Tzaddik, R' Moshe, whose blessings were able to miraculously bring salvation. When the righteous make a decree, Hashem fulfills their words. Immediately my father took me to see him. My mother packed provisions for the road and my father brought *Sefarim* for me to learn silently, as my soul constantly yearned for learn. In the evening we reached the Yeshiva of R' Moshe and were shocked to see how many Jews were lined up to see the Rabbi. We waited a day and a night to enter the holy Rabbi Moshe's study. My father broke down in tears before the Rabbi, explaining that my observance of *Mitzvot* was limited by my inability to speak, and I was almost *Bar Mitzvah*. The Rebbe looked at me, nodded his head, and said nothing. After a few minutes in silence, we left thinking that the Rebbe couldn't help us. We thought this decree from heaven would be my burden to carry forever. But as we were leaving, we were told that the Rebbe's silence did not mean that he couldn't help us. Instead, we should wait around a little while longer."

Laws: *Blessings*

1 – Dough fried in oil, if it is the size of a *Kezayit*, the blessing is *Hamotzi* and *Birkat Hamazon*. If it is less than a *Kezayit*, then the blessing is *Mezonot* and *Al Hamihya*, even though it still looks like bread, since it has been fried and is smaller than a *Kezayit*,

it is no longer considered bread, as fried is different than baked.

2 – Dough cooked in a Keli Rishon of soup or in hot water that is hot enough to cause the hand to retract upon touch, if it is the size of a Kezayit, even though it does not look like bread, as its appearance is slightly off, the blessing is Hamotzi and Birkat Hamazon. However, if it is smaller than a Kezayit, even if it does look like bread, the blessing is Mezonot and Al Hamihya.

3 – However, if the dough was placed in a Keli Sheni then it is not considered cooked, and the law changes: if it has the appearance of bread then the blessing is Hamotzi even if it is smaller than a Kezayit, because there is no baking if it is not a Keli Rishon.

4 – If when frying there was more than a Kezayit, but then there was less than a Kezayit because it diminished in size as it broke up or part was cut off, nonetheless one recited Hamotzi because it was first the size of a Kezayit.

5 – Pieces of bread each less than a Kezayit, if put together and fried in oil even though they are now one piece after frying, the blessing is still Mezonot, since initially it was not the size of a Kezayit.

Sponsors

*** **Mr. Eli Levy, his wife Becky, and their children.** Blessings, health, and success for the entire family, Mazal Tov to their son **Joe and his wife Razy**, Mabrouk, Amen. *** The young man **Mr. Nissim Ted Levy, his parents, and his siblings.** Blessings and success for the entire family, Amen. *** **Mr. Edmond Sardar HaLevi, his wife Vicky, their parents, 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, Mazal Tov on the 75th birthday of his mother, Mabrouk, Amen. *** **Mr. Joe Zirdo, his wife Sarah, their parents, and their children.** Blessings and success for the entire family, Amen. *** Blessed sisters: **Vivian and Julie Zirdo.** Blessings and success for the entire family, Amen. *** The young man **Mr. Joey David Farhi, his parents, and his siblings.** Blessings and success for the entire family, Amen. *** **Mr. Henry Guindi HaCohen, his wife Olga, their parents, and their children.** Blessings and success for the entire family, Amen. *** **Mr. Jojo Chehebar, his wife Terry, and their children.** Blessings and success for the entire family, Leilui Nishmat his mother **Marcell Bat Shafiah a”h,**

Amen. *** **Mr. Avraham Nakash, his wife Bella, and their children.** Blessings and success for the entire family, Leilui Nishmat **Yaakov Ben Evelyn a”h,** Amen. *** **Mr. Victor Alwaya, his wife Lillian, and their children.** Blessings and success for the entire family, Amen. *** **Mrs. Berta Malbasati, her husband Eliyahu the pharmacist, and their children.** Blessings and success for the entire family, Leilui Nishmat her father **Avraham Nouseiri Ben Sabrie a”h,** Amen. *** **Mr. Raanan Zarko, his wife, and their children: Penina, Esther, Moshe, Nissim, and Yehuda.** Blessings and success for the entire family, Leilui Nishmat his parents **Nissim Yehuda Zarko a”h** and **Penina Zarko a”h,** Amen. *** **Mrs. Olga Bat Bella, her mother, their children, and their husbands.** Blessings, health, and success for the entire family, Amen. *** **Anonymous.** A prayer to Hashem that her daughter be blessed very soon with children who are righteous, 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 **Rachel Sithon Bat Bahia a”h,** Amen. *** Askani Tzibur **Mr. Isaac Jrade and his family.** Blessings and success for the entire family, Leilui Nishmat his mother **Jamila 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 Aysa Bat Liza a”h,** Amen. *** Anonymous donors **Vaad of Chesed under the leadership of Rabbi Yosef Hamra, working together to make Shidduchim.** For more information, please call: (718)336-8317 or (917)415-0869.

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Tizku L'Mitzvot, Amen!*

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