

Congregation

◆◆◆"Beth Yosef"◆◆◆

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

**Rabbi Aharon Farhi**

*Parashat **Mishpatim***

27<sup>th</sup> Shevat 5782

*Maqam Saba*

Issue #970

**Mr. Eliyahu Levy, President**

*Haftarat **Hadavar Asher***

January 29<sup>th</sup> 2022

*Candle Lighting 4:50pm \* Shekiah 5:08pm \* Shir Hashirim 4:50pm followed by Mincha Friday Night  
Shaharit Shabbat 8:15am \* Mincha Shabbat 4:35pm \* Shabbat Ends 5:52pm & Rabbenu Tam 6:22pm  
Time for Talit 6:10am \* Seasonal Hour 59:00 \* Alot Hashahar 5:58am \* Netz Hachama 7:09am  
Weekday Mincha 5:00pm \* Earliest Time for Arbit 4:32pm \* Tzet Hacoachavim 5:47pm \* Chatzot 12:09  
Latest Time for Morning Keriat Shema 8:55am \* Latest Time for Morning Amidah 9:54am*

***Tuesday and Wednesday will be Rosh Hodesh Adar Rishon***

***Shovevim Fasting:***

*Thursday January 27<sup>th</sup> fast starts 6:00am and ends 5:35pm*

*Monday January 31<sup>st</sup> fast starts 5:55am and ends 5:40pm*

*Thursday February 3<sup>rd</sup> fast starts 5:52am and ends 5:45pm*

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

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**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

Parashat Mishpatim teaches us many Mitzvot – fifty three in total to be exact. We will now discuss some of them: A Jewish man that steals and is sentenced by the Bet Din to serve as a slave will work for six years and will then be set free in the seventh year. However, if Yovel, the Jubilee year, falls out during his six years of service, even if he was recently purchased as a slave, he will go free. This is only true if Bet Din sold him because of his theft, however, if he sold *himself* because his family was desperate financially, then he can even technically sell himself for twenty years, but if Yovel falls out even after just the first year he will still go free. If his master dies within his six years of service, then he must serve his master's son instead. If his master does not have a son, then he goes free and does not serve the daughters or other inheritors. A female servant goes free immediately upon the death of her master and does not even serve a son. Another Mitzvah: Bet Din cannot give the death penalty to one who is not found to be clearly guilty. This applies even if two witnesses had warned someone who was chasing a person with intentions to kill, and then the witnesses lost sight of the two, i.e. they

entered a building and were hidden from sight, and then it is discovered that the victim has been killed, but the witnesses did not actually witness the blows to the victim. When they arrived at the murder scene, they found the man lying dead in a pool of blood, while the other man that had continued chasing the victim after they had warned him against killing him, is now standing over the victim's body even with the weapon in his hands. Even in such a case Bet Din cannot order the death penalty based on this testimony. Another Mitzvah: We are commanded to bring Bikkurim, the first fruits, to the Bet Hamikdash. This applies to the seven species by which Israel is praised. Those close to Yerushalayim bring them while they are fresh, but those who must travel from further away will first dry the fruits to keep them edible for a longer period of time. Another Mitzvah: One cannot cook milk and meat together, even without intention to eat it, and the result is forbidden to use for any type of benefit. Even the ashes may not be used for benefit and must be buried. The punishment for transgressing this is lashes. This only applies if the meat and milk were both from kosher animals, even from a kosher animal that was not

slaughtered. However if either the meat or the milk came from a non-kosher animal, then the cooking is not forbidden, the result is allowed to be used for benefit, and the man is not punished with lashes. Nonetheless, of course, it cannot be eaten. May Hashem watch over us, Amen.

### **Insights on the Parasha**

**1** – *I will send the hornet before you...* This teaches us about an outstanding wonder and hidden miracle: Hashem could use even one of the smallest and weakest of creatures to uproot and destroy the most powerful and mighty nations of the world. (*Rabbenu Bachya*)

**2** – Knocking out a slave's eye or tooth directly activates the slave's freedom. Why? The reason for non-Jewish slaves is because of Noah's curse upon his grandson Canaan, a result of Canaan's father's actions. Cham had sinned against his father Noah in two ways: with his eyes, viewing the embarrassment of his father, and with his teeth, or mouth, by speaking ill of his father to his other brothers. Because of these two actions, Cham was cursed by his father Noah into slavery. When a master knocks out the tooth or eye, he is causing direct atonement for the sins committed with those body parts and therefore no longer deserves slavery as a punishment. If so, in truth both the eyes and the teeth should be required to be knocked out before deserving freedom and gaining atonement, nonetheless, the Torah had mercy on the slave and allowed atonement and freedom in the event of even one eye or one tooth being knocked out by the master. (*Rabbenu HaGra*)

### **History in Brief**

*80 years after the Temple's destruction, in the year 150AD.* After the Romans killed Rabbi Chutzpit Hameturgeman, they turned their attention to Rebi Chanina Ben Chachinai. Who was he? He had gone with Rebi Shimon Bar Yochai to learn Torah from Rebi Akiva for thirteen years. He had no idea what was happening in his home, until his wife sent him a message that their daughter was now old enough to get married, and he should come back home to marry her off. Rebi Akiva said through Ruach

Hakodesh, whoever has a daughter of marriageable age should go now and marry her off. When Rebi Chanina returned home, his wife saw him and she passed away. He said to Hashem, this poor woman, can this be her reward for waiting thirteen years until I returned from learning Torah? Immediately her soul returned to her body. He would fast from the age of twelve. The Caesar sentenced him to death at the age of 95. While he was reciting Kiddush for his family Friday night, he was up to the words VayKadesh Otto when the enemy entered his home, did not let him finish Kiddush, and killed him. A heavenly voice rang out, fortunate is Rebi Chanina Ben Chachinai who was holy and left this world while saying the words of Kiddush, up to the word Kadosh.

### **Health and Recovery**

One of the most important nutrients for body building is protein. Protein is used to build the skeletal bones, cells, tissues and hormones of our body. Therefore, diets based on the avoidance of eating protein are not healthy. Protein is found in milk and dairy products, meat and beef, chicken, eggs, and legumes. While hard-boiled eggs can be difficult to digest, it is best to eat soft-boiled eggs. Just place the eggs in water, boil the water, and after the water has boiled for two minutes extinguish the fire and remove the eggs to produce soft-boiled results. Legumes, such as hummus, peas, lentils, millet, buckwheat, and quinoa, are rich in protein. Soybeans are also rich in protein, but should be avoided, as consumption can interfere with the healthy production of thyroid hormones. There is also a high-volume of aluminum in soy. Whole-grain rice contains many vitamins and nutrients, such as B vitamins and many minerals, and should be consumed. Chickpeas provide a relatively high level of protein, of course not in industrially prepared hummus, which actually contains a lot of tahini and a lot of salt and margarine, which is hardened vegetable fat, and includes other stabilizers and preservatives as well as other non-healthy supplements. Protein is also found in almonds and sunflower seeds, but they would need to be chewed well.

### **Mussar: Hashem's Kindness**

We must constantly grace and thank Hashem for the countless blessings He bestows upon us every day throughout our entire life. He gives us even though we haven't earned it. He has created us from nothing. He has given us a body which is composed with countless wonders and outstanding wisdom. We were given a powerful and holy soul. We have intelligence in order to decipher between good and bad, right and wrong, and the ability to think and observe in order to recognize our Creator and Master. Hashem feeds us and gives us our necessities – even extras as well as some luxuries. He does not forsake us and cares for us every moment. The least we could do is recognize His greatness and bless His holy name in the world. Do not slumber and be ungrateful. Sing His praises to others and spread His presence throughout the world. He has created us in the form of His image, and blew a living soul within us, a soul of superiority and sovereignty; a soul with wisdom and great power, with the ability to understand and develop, greater than any other creation. The body is so complex and the mind is the control center. We must realize the awesome gift of life and praise Hashem with great devotion and emotion. Those who praise Hashem in this lifetime will praise him after a long life in the next world – where the true praises are spoken. May Hashem watch over us, Amen. (*Ma'alot Hamidot*)

### **Rishon LeSion: R' Rephael Meir 1801-1893**

When R' Rephael was only 15 years old, he experienced a terrible tragedy – his righteous father R' Yehuda passed away at a young age, leaving his wife and son alone in the world without support. R' Rephael's mother Sarah was determined to provide food for her son so that he would continue learning without worrying about their livelihood. She would work hard during the day so that when her son came home late at night from a full day of learning Torah she would have food prepared for him. R' Rephael was very positive and encouraging about their situation, and he gave strength to his mother during these hard years. When he reached the age of

seventeen, R' Asher HaLevi, one of the Sages of Jerusalem, took R' Rephael as a son-in-law to marry his daughter. In 1841, the Sages of Jerusalem needed to send a Hacham on a mission, and R' Rephael seemed to be the best candidate. He traveled to North Africa, a dangerous journey, but he was brave. When he reached Morocco, he stayed with the Jewish people as their guest and gave them encouragement and strength during very trying times, until it was time for him to move on to his next destination.

### **Story**

R' Hersberg continues: “When a curfew was announced in Tehran during the month of Elul, the government notified the Jews that those people who carry a Talit and Tefillin will be allowed to leave their home starting already from 4:00am so that they can recite Selihot in the synagogue. Only on my flight back to America did I start to even grasp what I had just experienced! I began to understand the Rebbe's far-reaching vision. I was not so surprised by his knowing that I would be there on Chanukah, which was impressive through divine sight. Rather I was completely awestruck by his sense of responsibility and love for fellow Jews whom he had never even met before! With his outstanding compassion and courage, he had sent me there to fulfill an important mission, and the success I had was indeed due to his holiness. We are truly blessed to have such a leader!” May his merits protect us, Amen.

### **Laws**

**1** – During Shabbat, do not use the hot water faucet that draws from the water boiler, since cold water will then enter the boiler and cook to a boiling point. Even when the boiler is off, as long as the hot water in the boiler is hot enough to be scalding to the touch it is forbidden, because the new cold water entering will cook in the mix. However, if the boiler is off and the hot water is not hot enough to be scalding to the touch, then you may use the water.

**2** – Regarding a sink which has only one lever to control the hot and cold water for the faucet, one

must be careful not to lean the lever towards the hot water, only completely towards the cold water. One must also not lean the lever in the middle, as it then uses both cold and hot water.

**3** – Even water that was heated Erev Shabbat cannot be used to bathe the body during Shabbat, as our Sages were concerned that one might then warm up water during Shabbat. One may use this water just for his hands and face, not his body.

**4** – One may not pickle cucumbers or any other items during Shabbat, since pickling is like cooking.

**5** – Do not place wet clothes on the radiator or even close to it, if the water can reach the temperature in which it could be scalding to the touch, as it would be considered cooking the water that is in the garment.

**6** – Regarding the laws of Shabbat, we find two concepts: an oven which was Gerufah or Katumah. Gerufah refers to the removal of the coals from the oven, and Katumah refers to the covering of the coals in the oven with ash. Each would be performed Erev Shabbat, showing that the coals are no longer wanted.

**7** – Nowadays we do not use coals in our ovens, so the custom is to cover the fire with a sheet of metal, similar to Katumah, as we do not cook in this way during the week.

**8** – Some have the custom to also cover the dials of the stove, to avoid adjusting the fire during Shabbat, but some are not strict to do this, since covering the fire with a sheet of metal is enough of a reminder.

**9** – An electric hot plate that has only one setting, so that the level of heat cannot be raised or adjusted, and people do not use such a hot plate to cook during the week, therefore does not need to be covered in order to be used during Shabbat. However, a hot plate with adjustable temperature, which is used to cook with during the week, must be covered from Erev Shabbat in order to use during Shabbat.

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