

Congregation

◆◆◆"Beth Yosef"◆◆◆

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

Rabbi Aharon Farhi

*Parashat **Ki Tisa***

18th Adar Aleph 5782

Mr. Eliyahu Levy, President

Maqam Hijaz

Issue #973

*Haftarat **Vayishlah Achav***

February 19th 2022

*Candle Lighting 5:16pm * Shekiah 5:34pm * Shir Hashirim 5:05pm followed by Mincha Friday Night
Shaharit Shabbat 8:15am * Mincha Shabbat 5:00pm * Shabbat Ends 6:17pm & Rabbenu Tam 6:47pm*

*Time for Talit 5:41am * Seasonal Hour 6:40:00 * Alot Hashahar 5:28am * Netz Hachama 6:45am*

*Weekday Mincha 5:25pm * Earliest Time for Arbit 4:52pm * Tzet Hacoachavim 6:12pm * Chatzot 12:09*

*Latest Time for Morning Keriat Shema 8:40am * Latest Time for Morning Amidah 9:44am*

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Please do not read this bulletin during Tefillah or Keriat Hatorah

Days before the sin of the Golden Calf was committed, the Jewish nation had heard Hashem speak the Ten Commandments, words from fire. How could they create a golden idol in the form of a calf and rejoice with it so soon after? The answer is that it was not Bnei Yisrael instigating this trouble, but rather the Erev Rav, the outsiders who came with Bnei Yisrael out of Egypt to join in the nation of Hashem. Around forty thousand gathered around Aharon and coerced him into this most embarrassing moment in our history. They believed their leader Moshe was gone, perished, leaving them all alone in the middle of the desert. They demanded a leader to take his place, a leader that was worthy of taking Moshe's place in their eyes. Aharon? No. Moshe's closest student Yehoshua? No. What about Betzalel who possessed wisdom from Hashem? Also no. They wanted to create their leader, a form of idolatry, a Golden Calf. When Hashem appoints a leader, it is impossible to replicate and replace. Moshe was willing to sacrifice himself for his people. *Vaychal* Moshe, he was prepared to make himself *Chalal*, as he stood in prayer, in defense of the nation, and said that if they weren't going to be forgiven, then he should be erased from the Torah. But Hashem had promised to give him a different people to lead. What would any other leader do at that moment? Let Hashem cleanse and purge out the sins and impurity, and he with his family will lead a people that would serve Hashem with complete devotion, dedication, and loyalty. Let's fix the world and move forward without those who sin!

But there is no leader as loyal and as devoted to his people as Moshe Rabbenu. Not only did he love the people, not only was he prepared to fight for them, he was even prepared to die for them. He asked for mercy on their behalf. What did he do? What was he willing to sacrifice? He threw the Luhot from his hands, the holy Luhot he just brought down from heaven, and broke them on the mountain. Why? He was so devoted to his people as a leader, his intention was to join in their misdeed, so that he would share in their fate and receive the same anger from Hashem as they would receive in punishment. He did not want to be better than his people. He did not want to lead a different people. He was an absolutely dedicated leader to his people alone. When Hashem witnessed such an outstanding level of self-sacrifice from a leader as Moshe, mercy and compassion flowed as a result, and Hashem not only forgave and did not punish Moshe for breaking the Luhot, rather Hashem even agreed with his decision and thanked Moshe. May his merits protect us, and Hashem watch over us, Amen.

Insights on the Parasha

1 – *I have filled him with a G-dly spirit, with wisdom, insight, and knowledge.* It does not say that Hashem will give Betzalel a G-dly spirit, rather it says that he was filled already, to teach us that wisdom, insight, and knowledge is granted to those who have already worked towards such achievements, and once they have already done

their part, Hashem then fills in the rest of whatever is missing.

2 – *Now, bring near to yourself Aharon your brother.* When Moshe felt that he would have liked to be the one performing the services of the Cohen Gadol, Hashem told him that the Torah had been in heaven and yet he gave it to him to bring to Bnei Yisrael. These words are hard to understand: Moshe was the humblest person to ever live, how could it be that he was jealous of his brother Aharon? Also, what was Hashem's answer? Moshe was not jealous of Aharon, rather he wished to have the merit and privilege of serving Hashem and fulfilling the special Mitzvot that only a Cohen can fulfill in service. Hashem therefore answered that while Aharon was busy performing the services of the Cohanim, he would not have enough time to fulfill all the other Mitzvot. Moshe, on the other hand, would be the one to teach all of the Torah to Bnei Yisrael, the Torah that Hashem gave him, and through learning and teaching Torah a person is considered to have performed and fulfilled all the Mitzvot of the Torah as well, so that Moshe should not feel like he lost out by not being the one to perform the services as a Cohen.

History in Brief

80 years after the Temple's destruction, in the year 150AD. One day a group of Jewish people passed by an unclothed Roman near the sea who had been on a boat that sank and he barely escaped with his life. While they mocked and ridiculed him, Rebi Elazar Ben Shamua alone accorded him with some dignity and draped his unclothed body to save him from further embarrassment. He then took him home, fed him, and sent him away safe and cared for. This man went on to become the Caesar of Rome. He decreed terribly harsh laws against the Jews who had ruthlessly embarrassed and ridiculed him at his lowest point. Rebi Elazar Ben Shamua went to visit the Caesar in Rome and convinced him to annul the harsh decrees. Many years later, in his older age, this Caesar once again began oppressing the Jews and was killing the holy Hachamim one by one. At that time Rebi Elazar Ben Shamua was 105 years old. When they captured him it was a Friday, so he asked the Caesar if he could just let him live one more day so that he could observe one more Shabbat. The Caesar asked, why? Was Hashem going to save

him from this fate? To which he explained that Hashem is patient and has a plan when to exact vengeance. The Caesar asked if so, let him exact vengeance now? Rebi Elazar answered that if they destroyed the Bet Hamikdash and burned down the Hechal, and still Hashem is patient, then surely Hashem will be patient now as well. The Caesar then ordered his soldiers to take Rebi Elazar away to be killed. His students asked him why he didn't try to flatter the Caesar in order that he spare his life. Rebi Elazar answered that he was to share a fate like his colleagues and sanctify the holy name of Hashem while being killed. He began reciting Kiddush, and when he reached the words Asher Bara Elokim Laasot, the sword ended his life while the word Elokim was on his lips. A heavenly voice announced, fortunate is Elazar whose soul left his body with the name of Hashem on his lips, for he and his colleagues are destined for a life in Olam Haba. May his merits protect us, Amen.

Health and Recovery

Folic acid is important for building up our body. It is essential for the metabolism and for preventing blood vessel diseases. It is found in green leaves such as lettuce and the like. It is important and recommended to periodically monitor folic acid levels in the body while conducting a general blood test, especially in adults today. The worldwide medical recommendation is that women aged 20-40 should intake about 400mg/day of folic acid and monitor the amounts in the blood. One of the side effects is constipation. Another important level one must monitor is Vitamin B12, which is found in animal-derived foods, especially in all types of beef, because beef has 10 times the amount of B12 than chicken. Studies in Israel indicate a high deficiency of vitamin B12 in adults, especially those who do not eat meat. This deficiency causes anemia, weakness, fatigue, and neurological dysfunction, and can also be a cause of difficulties in regular movements. These levels can be checked with a simple blood test. Vegetarians need to constantly monitor their levels of protein and vitamin B12 in the blood. If indeed a deficiency is found, first add non-fat meat to the diet and menu, two or three times per week at least. There are tablets that dissolve under the tongue to be taken once a day for adults, but they can cause digestion issues, so

such tablets may not always be the best solutions to increase levels. It is recommended that you occasionally receive vitamin B12 injections as directed by your family physician based on your blood levels. Also, ask your doctor whether to take B12 alone, or to take a B12 and folic acid combination tablet.

Mussar: *The Power of Evil*

Our Sages teach us: When Hashem initially created the world He made it never ending. For reasons discussed in the Gemara, He then limited parts of the world. We can learn from this Gemara that the creation of evil was also created without borders and never ending. However, evil was not changed and is still borderless. A person cannot grasp this concept and is unable to fathom the idea that evil is never ending. The Gemara teaches us concerning how many steps are necessary to complete tasks: Michael (angel) completes his tasks in one step, Gavriel (angel) in two, Eliyahu Hanavi in four, and the Angel of Death in eight. However, in times of plagues and epidemics, or other such times of calamities and misfortunes, the Angel of Death can fulfill his tasks in only one step. There are times when there is so much influence of evil and impurity that destruction can occur much quicker and easier. For example: Hitler Harasha and the Nazis, may their memory be blotted out. The power and control he had over millions and millions of people was not due to any outstanding leadership or ruler qualities that he may have developed. On the contrary, he was not healthy and nonetheless he controlled many. How did he do it? Evil and terrible powers of impurity, such unseen before in history, dwelled within him and gave him control and power, not his own abilities or qualities. Hashem allowed these forces of evil to take over, and the Holocaust took place. There was a purpose for it all, and the entire historic chapter was cause and effect of our nation's behavior and actions. During those years, the Mekubalim in Yerushalayim went to the Kotel and tried to diminish the evil power of that wicked man. However, when they tried they realized that an overwhelming power of impurity was in effect and they didn't have the power to eradicate it or even measure it. They were forced to surrender to the situation. Nowadays, even amongst the most religious of neighborhoods, a clear and vivid

change has taken place. A decent man from 150 years ago would be shocked and appalled at the sight of situations today. Spirituality and purity have bent low to allow impurity and evil to dwell. We must realize the dangers we are facing and fight against them with all of our might. We simply cannot give up and allow impurity to be acknowledged and accepted as a part of life. If we allow a little room, it will extend without boundaries, as it itself is without bounds. A simple and practical example is the television and media. Although useful, it can be very destructive and is a terrible threat that one cannot and mustn't compromise with. May Hashem watch over us, Amen.

Hacham Eliyahu Eli Khalife HaCohen 1948-2022

The king told his ministers, do you not know that a great man has passed away from our nation? We cry bitterly over the loss of this great man. His passing was right before the passing of Moshe Rabbenu, and his Levaya was on the night of the 7th of Adar. Ask anyone about him, what kind of man was he, and all will answer that Eli Khalife was a very humble man. Humility is the great character that describes Moshe Rabbenu's uniqueness, the master of all prophets. One who is humble needs no other description, for humility is the greatest of holiness. We witnessed Rabbanim and Hachamim from all places come out to the Levaya in honor of this great and humble man, whose actions were even greater than his learning, whose humble character made the path for his wisdom and fear of Heaven. This is why many from all congregations, men, women, and children, old and young alike, all beloved and holy, came out to pay final respect to this great man at his Levaya, to walk him away. We are bitter and cry over this loss that is irreplaceable. Hashem has gone into the garden and collected the flower, such that is filled with Mitzvot like a pomegranate. The stories of his good deeds are many, bringing atonement before Hashem. From his youth he figuratively sold his soul and body to be a servant for the needs of his people and nation, with great self-sacrifice, learning how to properly perform Shechita and all its Halachot from Hacham Rabbi Zaki Assa of blessed memory, the leading Shochet. The rabbi accredited and praised his Shechitah skills, his knowledge of the laws, with

confidence that the people will be able to enjoy meat from his slaughter. He would travel all over Syria, Damascus and Aleppo, in order to perform the Mitzvah of Shechitah and Brit Milah for the people, determined like Shaul Hamelech in his prime. He pushed away money and worked for the sake of heaven, Leshem Shamayim. Wherever he went, his mouth was full of blessings for anyone he met. When he left Syria and came to New York, he continued his holy work, traveling to people's homes to perform these great Mitzvot. His actions brought blessings that everyone recognized, as he worked for decades for the people and did not work for himself. He would greet everyone with a pleasant face and ran away from honor and respect, as far as from east to west. As a Cohen, he blessed the people with a strong love. Nobody could complain against him. He suffered terribly for much of his life, but accepted the pain with love. He was our Menorah, illuminating our path, and has now left us without light in the darkness. We have lost a great man of faith. Now he can pray for his people in heaven, for his family, for his congregation, for the people he has loved during his lifetime, so that Hashem will bless them with health, longevity, and the ability and opportunity to serve Hashem with love, for his merits are now before Hashem, and he can pray for the coming of Mashiach, quickly during our time, may his soul be bound up in the bonds of eternal life, Amen.

Laws: Prayers

1 – Upon completing the Amidah, we bend forward and take three steps back. While bowing we recite ‘Oseh Shalom Bimromav’, then turn toward the left which is to the right of the Shechinah in front and recite ‘Hu Yaaseh Shalom Alenu’, then turn to the right and recite ‘Ve’al Kol Amo Yisrael’, and finally when we straighten up we recite ‘VeImru Amen’ like a servant departing from before his master.

2 – However, when reciting Nakdishach of Chazarah, when we say ‘Vekara Zeh El Zeh’ we bow first to the right and then to the left, like the angels do, as is the custom of Maran Hacham Ovadia Yossef zt”l.

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*This week's sponsorship total is \$900
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Tizku L'Mitzvot, Amen!*

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