### Congregation

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

Rabbi Aharon Farhi

Parashat **Bamidbar** 5<sup>th</sup> Siyan 5782

Maqam Husseni Issue #986 Mr. Eliyahu Levy, President
Haftarat Vehaya Mispar
June 4th 2022

Candle Lighting 8:04pm \* Shekiah 8:22pm \* Shir Hashirim 7:00pm followed by Minha Friday Night Shaharit Shabbat 8:15am \* Minha Shabbat 7:45pm \* Shabbat Ends 9:04pm & Rabbenu Tam 9:34pm Time for Talit 4:01am \* Seasonal Hour 86:00 \* Alot Hashahar 3:44am \* Netz Hachama 5:27am Weekday Minha 7:30pm \* Earliest Time for Arbit 7:11pm \* Tzet Hacochavim 8:59pm \* Chatzot 12:54 Latest Time for Morning Keriat Shema 8:02am \* Latest Time for Morning Amidah 9:28am

## \* \* \* Shavuot \* \* \*

Saturday Night June  $4^{th}$  /  $6^{th}$  Sivan - Monday June  $6^{th}$  /  $7^{th}$  Sivan

Candle Lighting Saturday Night Before Kiddush 9:04pm \* Shekiah 8:22pm \* Minha 7:30pm Tikun Reading Shavuot Night 11:30pm \* Shaharit First Day 3:44am \* Time for Talit 4:01am Azharot Reading in Arabic First Day 6:30pm followed by Minha First Day Candle Lighting Second Night Before Kiddush 9:04pm \* Shaharit 8:15am Azharot Reading 2<sup>nd</sup> Day 6:30pm \* Minha 2<sup>nd</sup> Day 8:00pm \* Shavuot Ends 9:05pm

Parashat Naso 12<sup>th</sup> Sivan 5782

Maqam Raast

Haftarat Vayhi Eish
June 11th 2022

Candle Lighting 8:08pm \* Shekiah 8:26pm \* Shir Hashirim 7:00pm followed by Minha Friday Night Shaharit Shabbat 8:15am \* Minha Shabbat 7:50pm \* Shabbat Ends 9:08pm & Rabbenu Tam 9:38pm Time for Talit 3:58am \* Seasonal Hour 87:00 \* Alot Hashahar 3:41am \* Netz Hachama 5:25am Weekday Minha 7:30pm \* Earliest Time for Arbit 7:14pm \* Tzet Hacochavim 9:03pm \* Chatzot 12:55 Latest Time for Morning Keriat Shema 8:02am \* Latest Time for Morning Amidah 9:29am

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

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This week, we begin reading the fourth book of the Torah with Parashat Bamidbar, where we discuss the counting of Bnei Yisrael, here and in Parashat Pinehas. Chazal teach us that the holiday of Shavuot falls out specifically during this time, connecting the count of Bnei Yisrael to the holiday that we commemorate receiving the Torah. Bnei Yisrael numbered 603,550 at Har Sinai when we received the Torah. This number corresponds to the total number of souls in our holy nation throughout all generations. Even though the number of people may be larger, like the sands of the shore or the stars in the sky, still the actual roots of the souls in fact number a total of 600k. Had even one soul not been present by Har Sinai, we would not have been able to receive the Torah. The Pasuk tells us to be

warned, not to forget anything we learned at Har Sinai, as we must teach it all to our children, and their children afterwards, until the end of time. We must teach the future generations about how the earth shook by Matan Torah, about how the mountains trembled, and of course about how our souls left our bodies as Hashem spoke to us. Hashem then used the dew of resurrection to bring us back to life, and we then asked Moshe to speak as the intermediary. Why did Hashem do this? To teach us that the Torah is our life, and without the Torah there is no purpose of life. We must cling to the Torah throughout the days of our lives, spend our days and nights learning the Torah, in order to fulfill our purpose on this world through the Torah. May Hashem watch over us, Amen.

#### Shavuot

Throughout the year we celebrate Pesach, Shavuot, and Sukkot. Shavuot is quite different than the other two. While the other two are celebrated for seven days, Shavuot is only celebrated for one day (Biblically speaking). While the two require certain commandments to be performed, i.e. burning the Chametz, conducting the Seder, eating Matzah, living in the Sukkah, taking and shaking the Four Species, etc. Shavuot, however, does not require any special commandments to be observed and performed. As well, while the Torah commands us to make spiritual preparations for seven weeks, counting forty-nine days until Shavuot, the other two do not require such preparations. While the Torah specifies how many days to celebrate the two, it does not specify how many days to celebrate Shavuot, only how many days to prepare. There is a parable of a man who is told that in a number of days he will become extremely wealthy. The number of days that he waits will be so full of excitement and emotional pleasure that they will pass easily and quickly. Our unique and holy nation waits anxiously for the day of Matan Torah, and counts forty-nine days with great enthusiasm. We know that all else is meaningless and pales in comparison. Every year we re-establish our treaty and connection with our Father in heaven as we once again accept the Torah. We are not just celebrating and remembering, but actually performing once again, anew. The great and holy Arizal of blessed memory says that one who does not sleep during the night of Shavuot, even for a moment, and spends the time studying Torah, will experience a wonderful and complete year, in which he will not be harmed. This night can determine your fate for the rest of the year! Do not waste such great potential by becoming preoccupied or distracted with foolish talk and idleness during this night. Pray to Hashem. Ask Him for assistance and guidance in life. All doors are open and the tables are set. Great holiness descends from above and is yours for the taking. Every holiday includes special powers of influences in certain areas: Pesach - includes trust and belief, Rosh Hashanah includes fear, Yom Kippur - includes repentance, Sukkot – includes happiness and love, Shemini Atzeret – includes bonding and connecting, Chanukah and Purim - includes great overall boost of support and encouragement. Shavuot, however, is the foundation for all of the other holidays, all of the Mitzvot, and the entire Torah. Therefore, there aren't any specific commandments to perform during Shavuot like the other holidays, rather its essence is the foundation of the entire Torah, and we celebrate it by accepting and living the lifestyle dictated by Hashem through the holy Torah. May Hashem merit us and protect us, Amen.

#### Insights on the Parasha

"This is the work of the sons of Kehat in the Ohel Moed" This Pasuk is hinting to a powerful lesson for women. If a woman wishes to fulfill her purpose and raise children who live according to the Torah and study it, she should refer to the lesson in this Pasuk. This is the work of the sons – what should she do to develop sons who work for Hashem – Kehat – the three Hebrew letters refer to three observances that a woman must be careful with: Kedushah – family purity, Hadlakah – lighting Shabbat candles, and Terumah – removing Challah from the dough she makes. If she properly observes these, then she will merit in the Ohel Moed – her domain will be one which Hashem's holy presence rests upon, like the Mishkan and Bet Hamikdash. (Machaneh Dan)

#### **Insights** on Pirke Avot

"Such is the path to Torah: eat bread with salt" Our sages explain that this is speaking about one who has many enjoyable delicacies available to him, but nonetheless refrains from indulgence, just like Rabbenu Hakadosh who, although was very wealthy, ate bread and salt and did not pamper himself with his wealth. Tosafot explains that just as one should pray that Torah enters his body and soul, so too should one pray that unnecessary enjoyments should not enter his body and soul. If one successfully achieves this, it will be good for him in this world, as many forms of enjoyment harm and damage the body, and it will be good for him in the next world, as his soul will be cleaner and healthier without the worldly influences blemishing his holiness.

#### Health and Recovery

Our Sages warn: there should be no talking during a feast, lest food enter the windpipe instead of the esophagus and cause choking. If food or saliva were to enter the lungs, the person's life would be in immediate danger through suffocation. This is a very dangerous junction. An accident at this junction can become a fatal situation at any age without prior warning. Unlike other diseases or sicknesses, even if a person is generally careful, this situation can elevate without symptoms or warning. Sometimes if it happens that food enters the windpipe, with the mercy of Hashem, miraculously the person will be able to immediately cough up the food which is pushed out of the trachea and the danger of suffocation will be prevented. The rule is that the more you chew the better you will be able to digest your food, both

through being well crushed and along with the saliva of the mouth that mixes with it and breaks it down further. It is important to know that if you eat healthy foods, in the proper amount with the desired form of chewing, the chances are that the overall desire to eat more and snack more will decrease, and the feeling of fullness will satisfy you. The right way is to eat a little at a time, and then in a short time vou will feel a tremendous change in your feelings of hunger. It is the desire to fill the belly that causes most patients to become sick, according to the writings of the Rambam. You should know that carbohydrates are mainly broken down in the mouth with saliva. Therefore, continuous chewing of carbohydrates is done in the mouth through saliva and thus it is very important to chew thoroughly because it causes the maximum breakdown of carbohydrates, which will then produce the maximum benefit to the body from the food

#### Mussar: Life

Do you wish to live in peace and tranquility? Do not become accustomed to the physical enjoyments of this world. If Hashem has blessed you with wealth and prosperity, do not spoil yourself or teach your family to require higher standards of living, complete with the much desired enjoyments of this world. We do not know what tomorrow will bring. If one becomes accustomed to higher standards, he will require it. A child will feel a great need to satiate this requirement even in his old age. If the child is raised in such a fashion but cannot fulfill this higher standard later in life, he may be led to theft. He will live in pain if he cannot continue living the way he has become accustomed to when he was growing up. One must be happy and satisfied with what he has and needs, and should teach himself control and discipline, for then he will be praised in this world and in the next. One should despise the physical and mundane enjoyments that this world tries to force a person to chase after, for the pleasure is momentary while the destruction caused can be catastrophic and long lasting. Desire the true life! Chase after the life of Torah, Mitzvot, and good deeds. Serve your Creator and present a wonderful fragrance before Him through your deeds. Don't waste your precious life with foolish silliness while chasing after your desires. Perform the will of Hashem with all of your might and ability. Do not cease from learning His laws and commandments, and structure your day to include a set of uncompromised time for Torah study. One who follows this advice will merit a truly wealthy life of health, happiness, and longevity, Amen.

#### **Rishon LeSion:**

#### R' Yaakov Shaul Elyashar 1817-1906

R' Yaakov Elyashar had a holy son named R' Eliezer Yerucham, who would spend day and night learning Torah. In Tzefat he would sit and learn without any concern for the matters of the world that he despised. He too had a son born to him, whom he named Yaakov Shaul Elvashar, after his father. On the 17<sup>th</sup> of Tammuz, as he was returning to the Bet Midrash, officers approached him and arrested him by the orders of Abdullah Pasha leader of Acco who had killed the Tzaddik R' Chaim Farhi. He tried to ask what it was that he had done wrong to deserve to be arrested, but the officers told him to keep quiet, hinting to the swords on their belts. Promising a nice amount of bribe money in exchange, he asked them to please just allow him to say goodbye to his family. They agreed to pass his house on the way to the prison so that he could say farewell to his wife, in exchange for a nice sum of money.

#### Story

The day came for the flour grinding mill to switch hands from Shimon to the Goy. Nearby, by the riverbanks, the Goy was throwing a lavish party for his family to celebrate their new business venture. The alcohol flowed freely and the meat roasted in great quantity over the fires. As the day ended, Shimon went over to the intoxicated Goy and handed him the second letter from the Rebbe. The Goy took the letter and looked at Shimon in disgust. He accused him of ridiculing him and harassing him until the last moment. Didn't he realize it was over? The mill was no longer his! Move on and start a new business, and stop looking at the past. With anger and revulsion, the Goy opened the letter and began to read it.

#### Laws: Shavuot

- 1 Make sure to follow the Mahzor while reciting Kiddush on the first night of Shavuot Motzei Shabbat, as we add the blessing of Me'ore HaEsh on the flame, the blessing of Hamavdil Ben Kodesh LeKodesh, and also the blessing of Shehechiyanu. The blessing of Shehechiyanu is recited on both nights of Shavuot during Kiddush.
- **2** Just like Shabbat, one may not eat or even taste anything before reciting Kiddush for Yom Tov, both day and night.
- 3 Just like Shabbat, we split the Yom Tov day in half half for prayer and learning, half for eating and enjoying. We use double loaves, we dress nicely (even nicer than Shabbat), but we do not have Seudah Shelisheet.

- 4 One is obligated to eat a meal with bread on Yom Tov, both day and night. If one forgot Ya'aleh Ve'yavo and said *Baruch Atah Hashem*, he completes *Lamedeni Choukecha* and recites it there. If he already said *Boneh Yerushalayim*, then he says there: *Baruch Atah... Ha'olam Asher Natan Yamim Tovim Le'amo Yisrael Lesasson Ulsimcha, Et Yom Chag... Hazeh, Yom Tov Mikrah Kodesh Hazeh, Baruch Atah... Mekadesh Yisrael Vehazemanim.*
- 5 However, if one began the next blessing but did not yet say *La'ad Hakel Avinu Malkenu*, then he continues the blessing with the blessing written in Law #4 above. But, if he already said *La'ad Hakel Avinu Malkenu*, then he cannot say anything besides going further and completing the blessing of *Hatov Vehametiv*.
- **6** It is forbidden to create a fire on Yom Tov. It is also forbidden to strike a match; however, one can light a match from an existing flame.
- 7 One is prohibited to use an electric lighter on Yom Tov. An oven with an electric lighter may not be lit unless you are using an existing flame.
- **8** Electric cannot be turned on or off during Yom Tov. If necessary, a Goy may be told to turn on electric but not to turn off electric or gas.
- **9** It is a great Mitzvah to warn the public about the stringencies of riding a bike or skating during Yom Tov.
- 10 One who forgot to prepare a fire from before Yom Tov may ask a Goy for assistance. Some are strict.
- 11 Once you are done smoking, do not extinguish it in an astray; rather place it on the floor gently.
- 12 The Ba'al Shem Tov says that one who does not sleep during the night of Shavuot will have a year free from suffering, with health and success, and he will be blessed with the seventy crowns of blessings of the next world. Netillat Yadayim in Birkot Hashachar and Asher Yatzar are recited only if necessary and applicable. One should read the Azharot during the two days of Shavuot.

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