

Congregation

◆◆◆"Beth Yosef"◆◆◆

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

Rabbi Aharon Farhi
*Parashat **Hukat***
10th Tammuz 5782

Mr. Eliyahu Levy, President
*Maqam Huseni Haftarat **VeYiftah HaGiladi***
Issue #990 July 9th 2022

*Candle Lighting **8:10pm** * Shekiah **8:28pm** * Shir Hashirim **7:00pm** followed by Minha Friday Night
Shaharit Shabbat **8:15am** * Minha Shabbat **7:50pm** * Shabbat Ends **9:10pm** & Rabbenu Tam **9:40pm**
Time for Talit **4:08am** * Seasonal Hour **86:00** * Alot Hashahar **3:51am** * Netz Hachama **5:34am**
Weekday Minha **7:30pm** * Earliest Time for Arbit **7:17pm** * Tzet Hacoachavim **9:05pm** * Chatzot **1:01**
Latest Time for Morning Keriat Shema **8:09am** * Latest Time for Morning Amidah **9:35am***

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Throughout Sefer Bamidbar, many times Moshe and Aharon faced in leadership very difficult confrontations with the nation, for example: the episode with the Meragelim and the episode with Korah. In this week's Parasha, they faced yet another challenge with the nation: *Miriam died there and was buried there. There was no water for the people to drink.* The people argued with their leaders, why were they brought to the desert to die of thirst? They gathered around Moshe and Aharon, challenging that there was neither water nor produce, nothing of sustenance. How did Moshe and Aharon react? They went to the Ohel Moed and fell on their faces towards Hashem. There Hashem's Glory appeared to them in response. Our Sages teach us: Moshe and Aharon felt threatened and in danger. They therefore ran from the nation to be protected by Hashem under the shade of the Ohel Moed. But there's another understanding. Moshe and Aharon weren't afraid of any danger. They were teaching the nation a lesson. When in trouble, when in need, when times seem impossible and the situation is serious, who do you turn to? Who do you run to? When there's no water to drink, no food to eat, or any other problem or concern, who

do you ask for help and mercy? Moshe and Aharon went directly to Hashem, fell on their faces, and prayed for mercy. Hashem appeared to them in response. This is different than the episode of Korah, where it says that Hashem appeared to the nation, not just to Moshe and Aharon. Why here just to them? Because Hashem was telling Moshe and Aharon to listen to the nation, who are thirsty, and travel immediately to take action. Don't spend time right now mourning the loss of their sister Miriam. A leader must be focused on caring for the people when they are in need, even when mourning the loss of a very righteous person, and a sister. A leader must know that the people's needs come first, and their personal needs can be put on hold. This is why the passing away of Miriam is written next to the wellspring of Miriam stopping, as the thirst was a punishment to the nation for not properly eulogizing and mourning the passing of a righteous woman, in whose merit they enjoyed the water in the first place. Nonetheless, once the nation was suffering from thirst, it was then necessary for Moshe and Aharon as leaders to put aside their own suffering of mourning for the loss of their sister and instead focus on the needs

of the nation. May Hashem watch over us, Amen.

Insights on the Parasha

1 – “*This is the decree of the Torah*” In 1244, on the 9th of Tammuz, on Friday Erev Shabbat Parashat Hukat, 20 chests filled with Sifre Torah were burned. They were burned exactly in the same spot that the Jews themselves had previously burned the Rambam’s Sefer Moreh Nevuchim, and realized that Hashem was relaying a message that their action was a terrible mistake. There is now a custom to fast on that day of that week, instead of the day of the month, because the Pasuk explains that it is ‘*the decree of the Torah*’ as Onkelos translates decree hinting to the burning of the Torah. They cried and prayed to Hashem for atonement for burning the Rambam’s Sefer Moreh Nevuchim.

History in Brief

Rebi Reuven was a scholar who served at the side of Rebi Yehuda Ben Baba. When the Romans heard that he served at the side of a scholar, they wanted to kill his Rebbe, Rebi Yehuda Ben Baba, because the Romans had decreed that nobody was allowed to serve at the side of a Hacham. Rebi Reuven asked his Rebbe Rebi Yehuda Ben Baba if he would allow him to be killed instead, in his place, but his Rebbe did not agree to exchange places. He explained that it was in fact a decree from heaven and therefore impossible to override such a decree. When the Romans killed Rebi Yehuda Ben Baba, his student Rebi Reuven recited *Baruch Dayan Ha’emet*. What did Rebi Reuven do next? He grew his hair long, like the Romans, and dressed as them, looking just like them. He then moved to Rome and slowly worked his way through the ranks until he was able to convince the necessary parties to annul the decrees against performing Mitzvot. Unfortunately, it became known that he was a Jew, and they reestablished the decrees once again. Rebi Reuven would teach:

Hashem personally prepares the marriage partner for a woman, as the Pasuk says in the Torah that Betuel and Lavan exclaimed that *it is from Hashem*. Also, in Navi it says regarding Shimshon that the parents *did not know that from Hashem was the wife*. In Ketuvim it also says *the property and possessions is from inheritance, and from Hashem is a wise wife*. Rebi Reuven would also teach: A person is not considered relative to something unless he does it, or at least partially does it, or even if he just planned in his heart to do it, or even if he sees others doing it and is happy about it.

Health and Recovery

In order to strengthen the overall health of the teeth and gums, one should be careful with the following: 1- Upon waking up, place a small amount of olive oil in the mouth, enough to rinse with for about ten minutes all around the different areas in the mouth, and then do not swallow it, rather release it into the sink, as olive oil strengthens the throat and gums and protects from harm. 2- Chewing bubble gum for more than an hour at a time causes damage to the jaws. 3- Biting on hard things such as watermelon seeds on a daily basis is harmful. 4- Nail polish can cause irreparable damage to your teeth. 5- Do not eat or drink very cold or very hot foods or drinks, which can be harmful for the teeth and also unhealthy for the gums. 6- Brushing your teeth should be done after every time you eat, because the goal is to clean the teeth and remove the residual food that accumulates between the teeth and gums at the end of the meal. Just as you wash and clean your dishes and utensils each time after using them, you must also wash the eating utensils that are the teeth in your mouth after eating, and then brush them again before bed. It is advisable to use mouthwash as well as dental floss to thoroughly clean the food residue in the mouth between the teeth and gums. It is also advisable to replace your toothbrush with a new one once every few months. Fluoride

toothpastes contain a warning that it should not be used for children under six years of age. This warning should be taken into account, since children do not wash their mouths well after brushing and may swallow some of the paste, in which case ingestion of too much fluoride can be detrimental to the health.

Rishon LeSion:

R' Yaakov Shaul Elyashar 1817-1906

R' Eliezer, the father of the child R' Yaakov, escaped prison and returned home by foot to the city Tzefat. When the ruler Aljazar sent his men to find the escaped prisoner, R' Eliezer ran away from Tzefat to wherever his feet could take him. Traveling for a whole day, he arrived out of breath to Lebanon, ruled by the leader of Damascus and in fights with the leader of Acco. He didn't imagine the leader of Acco would come looking for him there. The Jews of Hasbaya Lebanon recognized him and gave him an honorable welcome. He enjoyed their company and hospitality for a whole week, and then continued on his way to a relative he would stay by. Meanwhile, in Tzefat, they turned over the city looking for their escaped prisoner, but couldn't find a trace of him anywhere. Not one house was left unchecked, not the Shul, not the Midrash. Everyone was interrogated for information, even very young children, but they gained nothing in their search for R' Eliezer.

Mussar: *Hatred*

Hatred clouds one's intellectual vision. Some hate others with a passion. When questioned about the grounds for their hatred they cannot explain the source. Hatred is the cause of our current exile. People hate each other for no reason – just because the other doesn't share the same outlook or ideas. Hatred causes a lack of communication, which is like a terrible disease that eats up the body and soul, leaving nothing behind. Put an end to the hatred and jealousy! The time has come for peace to prevail, and for the fighting and hostility to

end. We are all a portion of Hashem – one who hates his friends must beware that his friend is from Hashem! Nobody is allowed to hate his friend. We cannot change the nature of another – everyone is different. Just because we are different is not a reason for hatred. It is only the Yetzer Hara that enters us and convinces us to act unjustifiably and sinfully. All of our pain and suffering that we have endured during our long exile are a direct result of hatred and jealousy. One who hates is one who is distancing himself from Hashem. Hashem sustains everyone and provides exactly enough for each and every person's needs in their current situation. One who has true faith and belief in Hashem, and loves Hashem, will befriend his fellow Jew, love him, and honor him. May Hashem merit us, Amen.

Story

The Goy, the new boss of the flour mill business, stood in front of his guests at his party, with drunken pride and happiness, as if he was the greatest in the world. Noticing the waves in the river near the mill, he jumped into the water and swam with exceptional ability to the delight of his audience, and then emerged back to his starting point. The crowd roared with appreciation for his athleticism, chanting that he was the greatest swimmer in the world. He went in again and performed laps around the mill to the pleasure of the party. This time, he said, he was going to go even deeper and perform an even more impressive feat. The crowd watched with excitement.

Laws: *Shabbat*

1 – Rabi Elazar teaches us from Tanach that Shabbat is equal to all other Mitzvot in the Torah combined. If we observe Shabbat, we have fulfilled the entire Torah. If we don't, heaven forbid, it is like desecrating the entire Torah.

2 – One who does not observe a Mitzvah in the Torah on purpose is considered a 'Mumar' but his slaughter is valid and his wine is not

Nesech. However, a Mumar who does not observe Shabbat is considered to be a Mumar for the entire Torah, his slaughter is invalid, and his wine is Nesech.

3 – Shabbat is the bond between Hashem and our nation. One who desecrates Shabbat is wicked and severs his bond.

4 – A garment that has dust on it, if one is particular not to wear it like that, then he is not allowed to brush off the dust during Shabbat, but if one does not care to wear it like this, then one may brush it off, but not with a brush.

5 – A garment with feathers on it, since the feathers are not woven into the garment, but above it, it is permitted to shake them off, but not with a brush

6 – One can remove dust or dirt from a leather shoe, even with a dry cloth, but not with strength, so that it will not come to brush. However, a shoe made of material is like a garment, and if one is strict with dirt, then he should not wear it during Shabbat.

7 – Rabi Chiya Bar Rabi Aba says: I was a guest by a very wealthy individual, who ate Seudat Shabbat upon a gold table with sixteen servants in attendance at the clap of his hands. The plates, cups, and cutlery were all made of gold, and the table was set with the most delectable dishes. When the host sat to dine, he exclaimed that the world is Hashem's and His honor fills it, so that he should not be haughty. I asked him to what merit did he earn this wealth. He explained that he always worked hard to acquire the best to enjoy on Shabbat, in honor of Shabbat.

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siblings: Jack, Joey, Razi, Vera, and Lina of the Sardar Family. Blessings and success for the entire family, Leilui Nishmat their mother **Rachel Bat Alvira a”h, Amen.** *** **Mr. Shlomo Shalouh HaCohen, his mother Selly, his wife Lillian, and their children.** Blessings and success for the entire family, Leilui Nishmat his father **Yosef Shalouh Ben Amilia a”h, Amen.** *** **Mr. Isaac Shakalo and his sisters: Gracie, Shella, Violet, Stella, and Claudi.** Blessings and success for the entire family, Leilui Nishmat their mother **Bella Bat Kahila 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 **Rachel Sithon Bat Bahia a”h, Amen.** *** **Askan Tzibur Mr. Isaac Jade and his family.** Blessings and success for the entire family, Leilui Nishmat his mother **Jamila Bat Bahie a”h, Amen.**

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