

Congregation

◆◆◆"Beth Yosef"◆◆◆

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

Rabbi Aharon Farhi

Parashat Ekev

23rd Av 5782

Maqam Siga

Issue #996

Mr. Eliyahu Levy, President

Haftarat Vatomer Sion

August 20th 2022

*Candle Lighting 7:29pm * Shekiah 7:47pm * Shir Hashirim 7:00pm followed by Minha Friday Night
Shaharit Shabbat 8:15am * Minha Shabbat 7:10pm * Shabbat Ends 8:28pm & Rabbenu Tam 8:58pm
Time for Talit 4:53am * Seasonal Hour 79:00 * Alot Hashahar 4:37am * Netz Hachama 6:12am
Weekday Minha 7:30pm * Earliest Time for Arbit 6:43pm * Tzet Hacoachavim 8:23pm * Chatzot 12:59
Latest Time for Morning Keriat Shema 8:34am * Latest Time for Morning Amidah 9:53am*

Shabbat Parashat Re'eh August 27th and Sunday August 28th will be Rosh Hodesh Elul

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

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Please do not read this bulletin during Tefillah or Keriat Hatorah

The Parasha begins with Hashem showering upon Bnei Yisrael all forms of blessings, but then it says that we will be blessed amongst all other nations. If our nation is righteous and deserving of all forms of blessings, by learning Torah and performing the Mitzvot, then we will be blessed in our own merits. However, if heaven forbid Bnei Yisrael does not merit such blessings, then Hashem will look at the other nations of the world and recognize that compared to the rest of the world Bnei Yisrael is more deserving of blessings than anyone else, as our Parasha states that it was not because of their righteousness that they were going to inherit the land from the other nations, but rather due to the wickedness of the other nations. It is called Eretz Yisrael, not Eretz Yaakov, because the angel of Esav blessed Yaakov that his name would no longer be Yaakov but rather Yisrael. However, if Bnei Yisrael is not worthy on their own and do not have the merit, then Hashem will look back at the name Yaakov and compare us to the other nations of the world, as it says that Yaakov was born holding on to the heel of Esav, to hint that even when we are not worthy on our own, we can still overcome when compared to the wickedness of the other nations. The Parasha also teaches us: *Lest you eat and be satisfied... increase gold and silver... and you may say in your heart, "My strength and the might of my hand made me all this wealth!"* These Pesukim can easily be understood without any in-depth explanations.

Nonetheless, we can ask a simple question: why was it necessary to write in the Pasuk that such a person will say *in his heart*, why not just write that the person will simply say out loud - vocally? What can be learned here by including the heart? The Pasuk is teaching us a valuable lesson about ourselves. Sure, it's easy to say out loud Baruch Hashem, Hashem helped me, thank you Hashem for everything. However, we must be careful to understand what we are feeling and thinking in our hearts and minds, and not follow our intuitions blindly. When we succeed or improve in any area of life, it is easy to follow our hearts into believing that we are great and powerful on our own. This is false, because on our own we are nothing without Hashem's help and guidance. Hashem provides us with the necessary strength every day in order to excel and complete our tasks. Perhaps you will convince yourself that you are doing nothing wrong by simply thinking such thoughts, it's not like you're saying anything with your mouth. The Pasuk teaches us that even our thoughts must be pure. Our hearts and minds must never lead us astray into thinking we are inherently powerful on our own and deserve praise and recognition for our greatness and achievements. We must recognize Hashem, and thank Him constantly for everything – absolutely everything. Even our ideas are directly from Hashem, not just our physical actions. We believe wholeheartedly that Hashem created the world and created man. Every day is

considered a new day that Hashem has created for man. An electric lamp does not have its own power to remain active – it must be plugged into the electrical outlet to constantly use electricity to continue lighting up a room. Do we see the electricity? No, but the lamp nonetheless has power only because it is using electricity from the wall outlet. So too, every action, every thought, cannot be powered without the direct connection to Hashem, our source of energy and power. Therefore, we must never allow ourselves to get carried away with our hearts and minds, thinking that we are the ones responsible for our successes as a result of our own strength. Hashem gives us energy, and we are responsible to make sure that we do the right things with the energy given to us from Hashem. Cleanse your hearts and minds. If we recognize that everything is from Hashem and we simply cannot accomplish anything without Hashem's guidance, then we will have fulfilled the important lesson of this Pasuk. May Hashem watch over us, Amen.

Insights on the Parasha

You will eat, you will be satisfied, and you will bless Hashem. A person must do a lot of work until he has bread or food to eat: plant, harvest, pay money, bake, cook, and everything in between, until a meal is ready for him at his table. We must remember, we must never forget, that everything is from Hashem. If the seeds do not sprout, if the trees don't grow fruit, if a person doesn't have money to purchase his needs, if a person doesn't have gas for fire to cook or bake, then a person can die of hunger! We must thank Hashem and bless Hashem every time we eat, to understand that Hashem is with us every step of the process, and mercifully enables us to have what we need. Every seed that sprouts is an opportunity to remember Hashem's kindness, and every time we eat anything we must remember that it is all from Hashem.

History in Brief

100 years after the Hurban, 190AD. Rabi Shimon Ben Chalafta was once walking along the road when he came upon lions that wanted to eat him up. He prayed to Hashem and two sides of meat came to him from heaven. He used the first to feed the lions and held on to the second. He took the meat to the Bet Hamikdash. He asked if it was kosher, and they told him that if it came from heaven then it is kosher and fit to eat. R' Shimon would teach: if one learns Torah and does not fulfill his learning in action, he is worse

than one who has not learned. This is compared to a king who has a royal garden. Two gardeners enter. One gardener plants but also uproots, while the other gardener does nothing. Of course the king will be mad at the first. R' Shimon completed the Shas Mishnayot that Rabbenu Hakadosh recorded, with the following words: There is no tool better for blessing Bnei Yisrael than peace, as it says that Hashem grants strength to his nation, and blesses them with peace. He was friends with Rebi Yochanan Ben Matya. Once Rebi Yochanan told his son to hire workers. His son did so and fed them simple food. When he heard about this, his father warned him that because they are children of Avraham, Yitzchak, and Yaakov, even serving them food fit for King Shelomo would not be good enough. He therefore must specify when hiring them that he will only be responsible to feed them as necessary.

Health and Recovery

Diabetes is a terrible and horrible disease, far more dangerous than you may think. It damages all organs, especially blood vessels, from the head to the feet, from blood vessels in the neck, to the brain, kidneys, causing vision loss, damage to the nervous system, and loss of sensation in the fingers and feet. Necrosis is the death of body tissue. It occurs when too little blood flows to the tissue. Necrosis cannot be reversed. When large areas of tissue die due to a lack of blood supply, the condition is called gangrene. Necrotic tissue is a medical condition in which there are dead cells in the body organ. The death of the cells happens due to lack of oxygen and interrupted blood supply. To illustrate what the high levels of sugar in the blood of a diabetic can cause, it is like a rat that bites through a water bottle from the inside of the bottle. High blood sugar does something similar to the blood vessels from the inside. Today there is a staggering increase in the number of diabetic patients in the world. Continuous consumption of fast foods significantly increases the risk of diabetes. One in three children born in Israel is expected to develop diabetes during his lifetime, according to figures presented during the International Diabetes Day. Professor Weinstein explains: Because diabetes is a disease that is not immediately painful, has no warnings or symptoms, no disorders, and one does not feel its existence in the body until it is discovered, we cannot begin treatment until we know about its existence in the body, which by then it is already too late to prevent.

Rishon LeSion:

R' Yaakov Shaul Elyashar 1817-1906

As he grew, R' Yaakov's name spread throughout Jerusalem. His energy, abilities, and talents clearly required that he be appointed as a leader, from the front lines amongst Jerusalem's great Sages. They were facing hard times and could use good leadership. Leaders of Turkey rose and fell, one after the other, each with great noise, resulting in instability for the Jews in Jerusalem. They tried to plead their case to the leaders, but they were not helpful. During this time the star R' Yaakov began to shine brightly. In 1845, his mother's husband, who had helped raise him and support him for many years, sent R' Yaakov on a mission to Izmir. R' Yaakov was happy to do it, and was successful. He spent Aseret Yeme Teshuva in a nearby area and then returned to Izmir for Yom Kippur.

Mussar: Tehillim

There are many great advantages that are acquired when one reads and learns Tehillim. David Hamelech a"h prayed that every Jew who recites Tehillim will be rewarded greatly, as if he learned through very difficult topics of the Talmud such as Negaim and Aholot, and will be granted a Tikkun for the sin of the Berit (wasted seed, family purity). One who recites Tehillim in public will receive many times the reward. Being accustomed to its recitation will protect you, your loved ones, and your generation from punishments and bad occurrences. Blessings and success will be poured upon you from heaven. Kaddish recited after completing the Tehillim reading with a Minyan will greatly increase the protection from evil and danger. One who wishes to connect his soul to Hashem should take upon himself to read Tehillim. Tehillim is as distinguished as the five books of Moshe Rabbenu. Fortunate is the one who recites Tehillim with song and concentration and not in a rush, for it will then be very pleasant to Hashem. Even if you do not know what you are saying there are still great advantages and merits to obtain. If one is ever in danger, he should recite Tehillim without interruption and with great concentration every day, for then he will develop into a spiritual being that is protected from the harms of the physical world. How great are the ones who pay others and sponsor Tehillim reading. Read Tehillim word by word, letter by letter, and sing it with enjoyment. Understand the meaning of the words in this great prayer. The great *Tzemach Tzedek* says that if people knew the effect reading

Tehillim has in the upper worlds and the power it creates, they would be reading it constantly. Know that Tehillim has the great power to break through the separations between us and Hashem. May we ascend higher and higher, Amen.

Story

Bella, the wife of Nissim, had a plan. She would come with her three unmarried daughters to the road and meet the Rebbe while he was traveling past. She planned to approach him and ask that he allow her a moment to speak with the Rebbe, so that the Rebbe can bless her three unmarried daughters with a husband and a family of their own. They went to the road and looked into each carriage passing by, checking to see if it was the Rebbe. As the Rebbe's carriage approached, the other accompanying carriages with him realized that the road was being blocked by a woman and three girls. Should they go around, find an alternate route? The Rebbe sat in his carriage his eyes facing downwards, but his mind in heaven. The Maggid was not surprised that they were stopping. This mother and her three daughters were in need and clearly feeling desperate. He advised his attendants to allow the mother to come forward and speak to him.

Laws: Shabbat

- 1** – One can use straw to drink from a cup that has pieces mixed in with the drink, and does not need to be concerned that the straw is acting as a sifting tool. However, if there is a sieve under the straw then it is considered a vessel used for sifting and cannot be used during Shabbat.
- 2** – One can use a filter on a water faucet during Shabbat since the water is drinkable even without the filter.
- 3** – One can use a sink drainer to stop large waste from going down the sink, since you are not filtering for any reason besides to prevent a loss. Also, you are only separating waste from waste.
- 4** – Utensils mixed with one another cannot be separated during Shabbat, unless you take specific utensils for immediate use.
- 5** – Spoons, forks, and knives may be placed by each place at the table within a half hour of the meal. One cannot set the table on Friday night for Shabbat morning.
- 6** – If forks and knives are mixed together, you may scatter them all on the table so that they would be separate, and then take whichever you need.
- 7** – After cleaning the forks and knives you may not separate them. However, after drying them

individually, you may put each down one at a time in its proper place.

Sponsors

*** **Mr. Abraham Aharon Farhi, his wife Rania, and their children.** Blessings and success for the entire family, Mazal Tov to the bride and groom **Yosef and Rachel**, Mabrouk, Amen. *** **Mr. Jamil Malah, his wife Estella, and their children.** Blessings and success for the entire family, blessings of longevity and health for his parents **Albir and Shella**, Amen. *** **Mr. Alphonse Kubani, his wife Golda, and their children.** Blessings and success for the entire family, Mazal Tov to the bride and groom **Yosef Farhi and Rachel Tawil**, Mabrouk, Amen. *** **Mr. Abraham Aharon Farhi, his wife Rania, and their children.** Blessings and success for the entire family, blessings of success for **Mr. Abraham Cohen and his son Edmon** who assist the public LeShem Shamayim, with beautiful prayers during Shabbat and the Limud Torah of the Avrechim. They are fortunate and their merit will be great, may the merit of our Abot help them, Tizku L'Mitzvot, Amen. *** **Mr. Victor Guindi and his children.** Blessings and success for the entire family, Amen. *** **Mr. Isaac Allaham HaCohen, his wife Bella, and their children.** Blessings and success for the entire family, Amen. *** **Mrs. Sara Menashe and her children.** Blessings and success for the entire family, Amen. *** **The young woman Esther Abraham Farhi, her parents, her grandparents, and her brothers and sisters.** Blessings and success for the entire family, may Hashem raise her in Torah and kindness, Amen. *** **Mr. Elyahu Antabi and his children: Toufic, David, and Linda.** Blessings and success for the entire family, Leilui Nishmat their mother **Nina Bat Salha a”h**, Amen. *** **Mrs. Liza Basoul and her children: Ilana, Dorit, Yaakov, and Yitzchak.** Blessings and success for the entire family, Leilui Nishmat their father **Mayer Ben Yekutiel a”h**, Amen. *** **Blessed siblings: Silia, Moni, and Shaya of the Sutton Family.** Blessings and success for the entire family, everyone is invited Wednesday August 17th in Beth Yosef (Levy) Tehillim at 6:00pm Divre Torah and Minha at 7:30pm, Leilui Nishmat their mother **Rachel Bat Bahie a”h**, Amen. *** **Blessed siblings: Jack, Joey, Raizy, 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. *** Askani Tzibur **Mr. Isaac Jade and his family.** Blessings & success for the entire family, Leilui Nishmat his mother **Jamila Bat Bahie a”h**, Amen.

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