

Congregation

◆◆◆"Beth Yosef"◆◆◆

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

Rabbi Aharon Farhi
Parashat Vayetze
9th Kisle 5783

Maqam Ajam
Issue #1007

Mr. Eliyahu Levy, President
Haftarat VeAmi Teluim
December 3rd 2022

*Candle Lighting 4:11pm * Shekiah 4:29pm * Shir Hashirim 4:05pm followed by Minha Friday Night
Shaharit Shabbat 8:15am * Minha Shabbat 3:50pm * Shabbat Ends 5:10pm & Rabbenu Tam 5:40pm
Time for Talit 6:07am * Seasonal Hour 56:00 * Alot Hashahar 5:56am * Netz Hachama 7:03am
Weekday Minha 4:15pm * Earliest Time for Arbit 3:55pm * Tzet Hacoachavim 5:05pm * Chatzot 11:45
Latest Time for Morning Keriat Shema 8:44am * Latest Time for Morning Amidah 9:40am
Time for Talit next week Parashat Vayishlah 6:13am*

Start Reciting Barech Alenu Sunday Night Arbit December 4th

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
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Please do not read this bulletin during Tefillah or Keriat Hatorah

Rachel realized what was about to happen. Her father Lavan was about to trick her fiancé Yaakov, her beloved husband-to-be, into marrying her older sister Leah. What's worse, her sister was about to be very embarrassed, because Yaakov had anticipated such a trick and gave a secret code to Rachel. When Leah would be asked for the secret code and will not know it, Yaakov would surely send her away in utter shame. Rachel therefore went over to her older sister and gave her the secret code, to save her from the shame. This outstanding selfless act of compassion in spite of the extreme self-sacrifice caused a powerful explosion in the heavens above! For generations to come, Rachel continues to pray for her children, Bnei Yisrael, in merit of her outstanding actions, she asks Hashem to forgive, overlook, and have mercy, just as she had compassion and mercy, when she could have easily done otherwise to her personal benefit. Forgiveness and mercy will always create miracles and blessings. There was once a young Talmid Hacham who was diagnosed with a terrible life-threatening sickness. The doctors told him that his life would not last that much longer. He went to great Rabbanim and

Hachamim for blessings, he went to pray by the gravesite of Tzaddikim, he learned Torah, recited Tehillim, and poured out his heart in prayers. Before he went to Meron to pray by the gravesite of the great Rabi Shimon Bar Yohai, his Rebbe told him that he would like for him to take something with him. It was an ordinary looking sealed document, but the Rebbe knew that his student would want to know what it was all about. He therefore explained that quite a few years ago, a young man wanted to marry a girl, but she refused. Insulted by the rejection, the young man began spreading a fake story about the girl, and the rumor spread like wildfire. After some time, when the horrible embarrassment finally subsided, the young man realized the terrible things that he had done to the helpless young lady, and he asked her for forgiveness and mercy. She refused. The young man then went to this Rebbe for help. The Rebbe sent a message to the young lady, promising to her that only good will come from compassion and forgiveness, especially when it is so hard to do. Amazingly, she found the strength within her sould and did it. She forgave him. This sealed document was proof, her signature declaring

in ink the forgiveness she gave that day. The Rebbe had kept the document for quite a few years, and now it was time to use it. Who was this young girl? It was in fact the current wife of his student standing before him! She had moved on and got married. Now, her own husband was in need of mercy and compassion. Perhaps if he would take this document with him and pray for mercy by the gravesite of Rabi Shimon Bar Yohai, surely Hashem will tear up the bad decree that is causing the sickness which is trying to claim his life. The young Talmid Hacham went to the Kever, clutching tightly the document in his hand, and prayed deep from within his heart, after hearing such a powerful story about his own wife. Shortly afterwards, he went back to the doctors and ran some tests to discover, that behold, it was a miracle! The sickness had inexplicably completely vanished! In the merit of his righteous wife, he was able to reclaim his life. We can learn the power of forgiveness, mercy, and compassion. If we overlook and move on, Hashem will bless us with miracles! May Hashem watch over us, Amen.

Insights on the Parasha

1 – When Lavan asked Yaakov how he would like to be compensated for his services as his shepherd, he responded that he did not want money or payment, but rather any animal that would be born either spotted, striped, or however exactly specified, those animals would be his compensation. Why did he ask for payment in this form? It is known that shepherds are usually paid in livestock, the owner gives over a number of animals to the shepherd when it is time to pay up for services. The Halacha is, when a person acquires or is given an animal, he is not obligated to give tithes for the animal, as it was not born in his possession. Only when an animal is born in your possession are you obligated in animal tithes. Yaakov had promised to Hashem that he would tithe everything Hashem blessed him

with. He therefore asked for payment in the form of animals from their birth, so that he can fulfill his promise of tithing his blessings.

History in Brief

100 years after the Hurban, 170AD. Rabi Shimon Bar Yohai was already advanced in age when he left the cave. When he came to Tiberius, he asked the people if there was anything they needed that he could help with. They answered that there was an area which the Cohanim avoided because it was not known exactly where there was impurity in the ground. With holy insight, Rabi Shimon told them exactly where they could and couldn't walk due to impurity, fixing their dilemma. A non-Jew wanted to make a mockery out of Rabi Shimon. He buried a dead body in the ground by an area that Rabi Shimon had already cleared as pure, and then approached Rabi Shimon to prove in public that the Rabbi had made a mistake and didn't know what he was talking about. Rabi Shimon was able to see with spiritual insight what the evil man had done, and so he decreed that the man change places with the dead body in the ground. Suddenly the dead man was alive above ground while the evil man was now laying dead under the ground. One day, while walking in the street, Rabi Shimon saw Yehuda Ben Gerim, the one who caused Rebi Shimon and his son Rebi Elazar to have to hide away in a cave from the Caesar for twelve years, until the Caesar died and they could come out. He asked in disbelief, can it be that Yehuda Ben Gerim is still alive? He looked at him and the man turned into a pile of bones.

Health and Recovery

The Ben Ish Hai explains that sleep is most beneficial for the body, mind, and soul during the first half of the night, much more effective than sleep during the second half of the night. This has even been proven medically. Unfortunately, people today would much rather go to sleep later than earlier, enjoying

the evening rather than waking up earlier in the morning refreshed and energized. Alas, so many think that 11:00pm is an opportunity to potentially catch up on the day's remaining workload. The Chafetz Chaim would go to the Yeshiva at a late hour of the evening and tell the Talmidim to go to sleep, having mercy on their health and wellbeing, especially the weaker students. In many ways, taking proper care of the physical can be more important than spiritual service, since without the physical you cannot perform the spiritual. For example, when a father once told the Chafetz Chaim that his son wakes up very early every morning in order to learn before Shaharit prayers, the Chafetz Chaim told him to dissuade his son from continuing to do so. Why? Because the benefit is limited. With the proper amount of sleep, one can live longer, healthier, and spend many years learning Torah. It isn't worth it to waste the body away early without taking the proper care now – it is so much more worth it to retain one's strength for years to come by responsibly sleeping on time and the correct number of hours, for then he will ultimately learn many more hours of Torah with greater quality.

Gaon Hacham R' Shalom Cohen 1931-2022

For over thirty years, Hacham Ovadia ztl would consult with Hacham Shalom Cohen to work through difficult Halachic decisions together, through extensive research and thorough discussions on a number of important topics, spiritual and physical, that would affect many or even a few. When Hacham Ovadia passed away in 2013, it was clear that Hacham Shalom would be taking his place as the leader of the Moetzet Chachmei HaTorah. This happened during Pesah of 2014. Throughout his years as the leader, he fought hard against certain changes that were in the works which would affect the spiritual quality of life for many religious families, and even threaten the spirituality of our holy nation altogether.

Mussar: Sickness and Disease

As we approach the holiday of Chanukah, Be'ezrat HaShem, we celebrate and

commemorate once again the great miracles that were performed for our ancestors in those days, as well as the miracles we experience during our times as well. When a sickness spreads throughout the world, spreading suffering and darkness without discrimination, we are not afraid of only the actual sickness, but rather also the effects, such as the fear, uncertainty, stress, and pressure. Medical professionals throughout the world notice and remark upon sicknesses that are indirectly responsible for other unfortunate outcomes. Those who arrive at the hospital in need of emergency medical attention must first be tested before receiving treatment. Sometimes a spike in sicknesses can cause delays, which are serious in many circumstances. Doctors must change their clothing often, wear extra protective gear, and sometimes make do without enough resources and assistance. Those who read the news constantly keep reminding themselves about the worst cases and terrible outlook of bad situations, which causes depression and weakness. An elderly Torah scholar tested positive for a sickness and yet Baruch Hashem in due course he became healthy and strong again. They asked him how he was able to recover at his advanced age, to which he replied that he kept internalizing the Pasuk that one should always remember that Hashem is the one who gives strength. We too must internalize this Pasuk and its important message. We must have complete faith in our Father in heaven, for He is the ultimate trusted and merciful healer. In the merit of the lights of Chanukah, may we merit the light of health and strength, without fear or doubt, and may Hashem heal all those who are sick, Amen.

Story

Like every morning, the wagon drivers waited early by the entrance of the town inns, feeding their horses, expecting customers to wake up, have breakfast, and hire them for a wagon ride to the market in order to conduct their daily business. This morning however, the wagon drivers were not even near their wagons or their horses. They were completely distracted by a

surprising turn of events. Yosef the wagon driver was no longer a wagon driver, now he was an automobile driver, as he had purchased a car and was now offering rides to customers. The other wagon drivers were outraged! Who would want to ride on a wagon with horses, bumpy and smelly, when they could ride in an automobile, and arrive earlier in more comfort! They would lose their livelihood. They decided to visit the Gaon R' Zalman, to ask him to declare that Yosef either stop harming their livelihood or otherwise move to another town with his new automobile services.

Laws: Bar Mitzvah

1 – Within 12 months of the passing of a parent, one may attend a Bar Mitzvah celebration, but may not stay for the music and dancing. He should say Mabrouk, Mazal Tov, and leave. Also, he may attend a Chanukat Habayit, Pidyon Haben, with the same guidelines listed above. One should be strict and not attend a Sheva Berachot.

2 – A Bar Mitzvah boy that is putting on Tefillin for the first time on his actual birthday does not recite Shehechyanu, even if the Tefillin are new, as we don't recite this blessing on a Mitzvah. He may recite Shehechyanu on the new Talit and have the Tefillin in mind.

3 – One who was born in the month of Adar during a non-leap year, and his Bar Mitzvah falls out during a leap year, the celebration is held in the second month of Adar, as the first Adar is the additional month during a leap year. However, if he was born during the first Adar of a leap year, his Bar Mitzvah is celebrated during the first Adar, even if his Bar Mitzvah falls out during a leap year.

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