

Congregation

◆◆◆"Beth Yosef"◆◆◆

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

Rabbi Aharon Farhi
Parashat Vayigash
7th Tevet 5783

Maqam Bayat
Issue #1011

Mr. Eliyahu Levy, President
Haftarat Vayhi Devar
December 31st 2022

*Candle Lighting 4:19pm * Shekiah 4:38pm * Shir Hashirim 4:15pm followed by Minha Friday Night
Shaharit Shabbat 8:15am * Minha Shabbat 4:00pm * Shabbat Ends 5:20pm & Rabbenu Tam 5:50pm
Time for Talit 6:25am * Seasonal Hour 55:00 * Alot Hashahar 6:14am * Netz Hachama 7:20am
Weekday Minha 4:25pm * Earliest Time for Arbit 4:06pm * Tzet Hacoachavim 5:15pm * Chatzot 11:58
Latest Time for Morning Keriat Shema 8:59am * Latest Time for Morning Amidah 9:54am
Time for Talit next week Parashat Vayhi 6:24am*

***The fast of the 10th of Tevet will be Tuesday January 3rd
Fast begins 6:14am and ends 5:09pm, for the strict 5:21pm***

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

During the seven years of famine, powerful and terrible, Yosef's brothers came to Egypt for food, in order to feed their family. They learned that their long-lost brother was the ruler of Egypt, the one who had the keys to the storehouses of grain! Hashem prepares the solution before the problem. Pharaoh was told, and he invited Yosef's family to be royal guests, not just as guests, but to live in the land of Goshen, with honor and dignity, and be safe from the famine. Pharaoh sent wagons to Yaakov, but the Pasuk says that Yosef sent them. What happened? The wagons that Pharaoh sent were adorned with idolatry, and Yehuda saw to it that the idolatry was removed and destroyed. Hashem was saving them from hunger, treating them with great fortune during a terrible time, taking care of them personally. Would they allow idolatry in their midst, even if it was coming from Pharaoh who was the messenger to save them? Absolutely not. Yehuda immediately acted and destroyed Pharaoh's idolatry. This is the strength of Yehuda, the king of our nation. He wasn't worried about Pharaoh's reaction, would he still allow them to come live in Egypt, would he punish them, would he even kill them, these thoughts didn't matter. There's right and there's wrong, black and white, and idolatry is removed and burned, simple as that. Yaakov then sent Yehuda ahead of them to prepare Egypt for their arrival,

because Yehuda would not think twice when deciding what needs to be done. When Yosef and Yehuda faced off in the beginning of the Parasha, the Midrash calls it a confrontation between two kings, kings who did not yet rule over land and a country, but rather kings who ruled over themselves, over their character, their thoughts, their actions, the greatest prerequisite to royalty, to power and glory. A person who has control, domination, over himself, all his limbs and energy, is truly a master, a royal king, cloaked with fear of heaven, mercy, straight judgment, and all other characteristics of a king. May Hashem watch over us, Amen.

Insights on the Parasha

1 – Yaakov Avinu told Pharaoh that the days of his life were short and bitter. This perspective was unacceptable in heaven. Hashem had saved him from Esav, Lavan, returned Dina, returned Yosef, and now it looked like Yaakov was complaining. As a consequence, the number of words he spoke in these two Pesukim, 33 words, would correspond to the number of years Yaakov would lose, as his father Yitzchak lived to 180 but he would live to only 147. We must learn from here to always accept our pain with happiness and never complain, and learn to understand that everything Hashem does is for the best.

The 10th of Tevet

During World War 2, over seventy years ago, the indescribable Holocaust was committed by the Nazis YS"V, who succeeded in destroying a third of our nation. We will never forget those terrible, dark times that our people had to face. Almost two thousand years ago, Yerushalayim was taken by the wicked Titus. In 1163, our people were abused and murdered by the crusaders. In 1559, many perished both spiritually and physically in the Spanish Inquisition. In 1649, the terrible years named 'Tach Vetat', referring to their Hebrew number of years, brought about horrible decrees for the Jews. As we all know, not long ago the Nazis tried to wipe us out and leave no trace behind. Our Torah says, "*Love your fellow as you love yourself*" and "*Love the sojourner*" but our enemies feel the need to annihilate us and our remembrance. Many times, the Satan was given the power to destroy, and during the Holocaust, while the Germans conquered about 20 European lands, our people were tortured and killed in ways unimaginable to normal people. Our leaders did not decree fasts in memory, for it would be too difficult and hard for us to fulfill. However, we have the 10th of Tevet, which includes all the sufferings and pain our people had endured throughout history. This day is sanctified Leilui Nishmat all the souls and martyrs from the time of the Temple's destruction until this very day. We must all fast during the 10th of Tevet with the correct understanding and intentions. May Hashem put an end to our sufferings and pains, quickly, send a Refuah Shelemah to those who are in need of it, and may we be redeemed with the coming of Mashiach, Amen.

Health and Recovery

1 – If one ate too much, he should drink tea with a little sugar. 2 – If one is usually hungry but his stomach does not digest food properly, then he must decrease his intake of food. If one has a strong digestion system, he should not eat until he is hungry, and he should only eat to rid himself of hunger, not until he is full. 3 – One who works hard should not eat a lot. 4 – One

who snacks a lot in between meals should occasionally fast in order to clean out his system. 5 – During the summer one should eat two-thirds of what he eats during the winter. 6 – During the winter eat more and drink less, but during the summer drink more and eat less. 7 – At least once a week do not eat or drink for twelve hours, doesn't matter if it's during the day or night. The Rambam writes that this is advisable during Erev Shabbat.

Rishon LeSion:

R' Yaakov Shaul Elyashar 1817-1906

On his way returning from Egypt, he passed through Alexandria to speak with the Rabbi of the area. The Rosh Kehila explained that for already a long time they did not have a Rabbi to lead the people, not a judge, not a teacher, as they could not find someone suitable and fit for the position. They then asked R' Yaakov if he would be willing to stay, to lead and teach the people. They donated money to their brethren in need in Jerusalem, while they were left in Egypt with their need of a Rabbi. R' Yaakov understood the need, but told them to give him time to think about it. A wealthy man, who had recently lost his wife, asked R' Yaakov if he would be willing to stay in his house for a month, to learn Torah Leilui Nishmat his wife. He described his wife as a righteous woman, descendant of great people, who treated even the simplest of Mitzvot as very important, and was careful with not eating food that was not kosher. R' Yaakov thought to himself that it was strange for the husband to mention that she only ate kosher and was careful not to eat something prohibited. They brought R' Yaakov to a feast in his honor and served his meat, but he decided not to eat anything that they served.

Mussar: Fasting

Our Sages of blessed memory teach us: All who fast are called holy. Fortunate are those who are able to fast. There are many Segulot in fasting, such as the 'Sitra Achara' (Yetzer Hara) cannot cling to one who is fasting. Fasting leads to humbleness, since one loses his strength from not eating and realizes his limits as a human.

One who is fasting is not tested from heaven, since Hashem sees the person testing himself, and he is already considered one who overpowers his inclination. He is then fit for the Shechinah to rest upon him, and his prayers are heard without any prosecutors objecting. There are many angels that are created through performing Mitzvot, but cannot ascend unless the person uses the power of a fast. A person who fasts is credited to have brought a sacrifice consisting of the fat and blood that he has lost while fasting. Unfortunately, many are fooled by their evil inclination that they are unhealthy and therefore fasting will result in sickness. They are led to believe that fasting in such a state would cause them to be punished in the next world for neglecting their bodily needs. Fasting is an excellent form for attaining forgiveness. Our great and holy sages knew the severity of their sins and fasted many fasts, as David Hamelech says, *“My knees are weak from fasting”*. Rebi Elazar and Rebi Yehoshua fasted until their teeth turned black in order to atone for specific sins. Rav Huna fasted 40 times for a specific reason. There were many others as well. So much more must we understand our need to atone for our many unbearable sins. Fasting is difficult, but what else can we do? Eat, drink, and be merry? Do not listen to your evil inclination who tells you that it is too unbearable for he is trying to destroy you! Many who fast turn out a lot healthier than those that do not. One who wishes to purify himself is definitely helped by heaven. One must especially be careful with obligatory fasts, such as the upcoming fast of the 10th of Tevet. May Hashem watch over us, Amen.

Story

When the Rabbi heard from the other wagon drivers that Yosef was desecrating Shabbat, transporting passengers during Shabbat, the Rabbi understood that they were partial to the situation, as Yosef's success meant that they were less successful, and therefore decided he would need to speak with others who were not directly involved in the business to find out the most accurate information without any bias, to be sure that he can decide correctly regarding

Yosef. He found two kosher witnesses who testified that indeed Yosef had desecrated Shabbat! He sent a summons to Yosef, requesting his presence in Bet Din before the Rabbi, but the messengers returned with a troubling message: Yosef had looked down with shame, looking guilty, but said that he would not come with them to see the Rabbi. The Rabbi tried to call him again, but he still did not answer. The Rabbi then decided to call Yosef's father, who was a good man that feared heaven, but he was informed that the father was very sick, laying in bed with his family caring for him, and therefore would not be able to come to the Rabbi.

Laws: Fasting

1 – All are obligated to fast the four Rabbinical fasts, one of which takes place on the 10th of Tevet.

2 – The obligation to fast spans from Alot Hashahar until Tzet Hacoachavim. Alot Hashahar, according to the Ben Ish Hai and Maran Ovadia Yosef zt"l is as follows: one and a fifth seasonal hours before Netz Hachama. The current seasonal hour consists of 55 minutes. Add the fifth, 11 minutes, and Alot would be 66 minutes before Netz, which is 6:14am. The fast will end a half seasonal hour after Shekiah which will be 5:09pm, or for those who wish to be strict it will end at Tzet Hacoachavim precisely at 5:21pm.

3 – One who goes to sleep without intending to wake up before the fast begins cannot eat anymore even if he wakes up before the fast begins. However, if he goes to sleep with the intention to wake up before the fast begins in order to eat then he may eat until Alot Hashachar.

4 – These fasts do not prohibit washing, showering of any sort, smearing, wearing leather shoes, or relations.

5 – Pregnant and nursing women, with the following specifications, are not obligated to fast. She has to have been pregnant for three months already from the time she conceived. However, if she is still within three months and she is feeling sick and is in pain, then she may eat.

6 – Once a woman gives birth, she is not obligated to fast for 24 months, even when she stops nursing. This applies as well to a woman who miscarries. Nonetheless, even though they are allowed to eat, those who eat should only eat what they need to and should not apply any effort to eat enjoyable foods.

7 – A sick person (not necessarily in danger), or an old weak person, who will be in pain from fasting, are not obligated to fast.

8 – Boys under age 13 and girls under age 12 are not obligated to fast.

9 – A married couple within their seven days of Sheva Berachot, a father of a newborn son receiving a Brit Milah, the Sandak (holder of the baby during the Brit procedure) and the Mohel are all obligated to fast.

10 – One shouldn't wash or brush his mouth on the morning of the fast. However, if one has to, he can, provided that he face downwards and make sure not to swallow anything.

11 – An otherwise healthy person who has to swallow pills or tablets for pain relief and the like may swallow them without water as long as they do not have a flavoring. If one cannot swallow without water, little water is allowed for swallowing. Liquid medicine may be consumed as well, as long as you do not enjoy the taste or flavoring and do not derive pleasure besides for the desired effects. If the sickness is serious, then you may consume the medication even though there is flavoring. Smoking is permitted during these fasts.

12 – One who eats accidentally less than a Kezayit must finish his fast and may recite Anenu in Mincha. If he already ate a Kezayit, he still completes the fast, but cannot recite Anenu in Mincha.

13 – One who accidentally recited a blessing in order to eat must taste a little in order to derive pleasure and not waste a blessing.

14 – If one forgot to say Anenu in Shomeah Tefillah, he continues and recites it at the end of Elokai Netzor.

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entire family, Mazal Tov to *Mr. Morris Hamwi and his wife Joyce*, on the birth of a son *Sammy*, Mabrouk, Amen. *** *Mr. Aslan Zayat, his wife Frieda, and their children.* Blessings and success for the entire family, Mazal Tov to their son *Mark and his wife Vivian*, on the birth of a son *Ovadia*, Mabrouk, Amen. *** Askan Tzibur *Mr. Zuki Jrade, his wife, and their children.* Blessings and success for the entire family, Amen. *** Blessed brothers *Mr. Mark and his wife Jill, the young man Avraham, and their parents.* Blessings and success for the entire family, Amen. *** *Mr. Joey Araman, his wife Julie, their parents, and their children.* Blessings and success for the entire family, Refuah Shelemah for their father *Soli Araman Ben Rachel*, Amen. *** *Mr. Eli Levy, his wife Becky, and their children.* Blessings, health, and success for the entire family, Amen. *** *Mr. Toby Cohen, his wife Shella, and their children.* Blessings and success for the entire family, Leilui Nishmat her father *Avraham Ben Badia 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. *** *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.

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