

Congregation

◆◆◆"Beth Yosef"◆◆◆

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

**Rabbi Aharon Farhi**  
*Parashat Shemot*  
21<sup>st</sup> Tevet 5783

*Maqam Raast*  
Issue #1013

**Mr. Eliyahu Levy, President**  
*Haftarat Divre Yirmeyahu*  
January 14<sup>th</sup> 2023

*Candle Lighting 4:33pm \* Shekiah 4:51pm \* Shir Hashirim 4:30pm followed by Minha Friday Night  
Shaharit Shabbat 8:15am \* Minha Shabbat 4:15pm \* Shabbat Ends 5:34pm & Rabbenu Tam 6:04pm  
Time for Talit 6:21am \* Seasonal Hour 57:00 \* Alot Hashahar 6:09am \* Netz Hachama 7:18am  
Weekday Minha 4:40pm \* Earliest Time for Arbit 4:18pm \* Tzet Hacoachavim 5:29pm \* Chatzot 12:04  
Latest Time for Morning Keriat Shema 9:00am \* Latest Time for Morning Amidah 9:57am  
Time for Talit next week Parashat Vaera 6:17am*

*Sponsored generously by the good-hearted: Mr. Joe Mordechai Allaham HaCohen, his wife Lillian,  
their parents, and their children. May Hashem bless them with spiritual and physical success,  
Leilui Nishmat his grandfather Yosef Allaham HaCohen Ben Farha a"h, Amen.*

*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**  
**2415 Ocean Parkway, Brooklyn NY 11235**

Please do not read this bulletin during Tefillah or Keriat Hatorah

This week we read about two Jewish midwives that were commanded to kill newborn Jewish baby boys, and with defiance allowed the babies to live. These two women were from a nation that had been enslaved, downtrodden, and completely subjected to the authority of the Egyptian superpower. Yet, without fear they rebelliously did the right thing. Where did they get the courage and strength to do this? The Midrash explains that they learned from their ancestor Avraham Avinu, who Hashem testified upon that he fears only Hashem. Avraham opened a hotel/inn/restaurant and invited travelers free of charge. It would have been hard enough for these two women not to feed and properly care for the newborn babies – but to take their lives? As descendants of the merciful Avraham Avinu, they could not bring themselves to do such an action. When Pharaoh realized his instructions were not being followed, he called for them. It is initially outstanding and unbelievable to read about these two women who blatantly disobeyed a powerful ruler that could order their executions with a snap of the finger. However, the Pasuk teaches us that the women did not fear Pharaoh. They were in complete awe of Hashem, the Almighty, as Avraham Avinu performed the Akeda through his complete awe and admiration of Hashem. The midwives understood that these babies were the ‘travelers’ of that generation that required care and consideration, free of charge. With a powerful resolve, they understood

the importance of building up the Jewish nation, in number and in essence. Pharaoh was afraid that the Jewish nation would multiply to uncontrollable numbers and he would not be able to cork an open rebellion. Pharaoh tried to propose plans, but only Hashem’s plans prevail. This was no longer a family of twelve sons and a father, or even an extended family of grandchildren. This Jewish family had become an actual nation which in time could prove to be a threat to Egypt, the current superpower in the world. Pharaoh said ‘*Pen Yirbeh*’ perhaps they will multiply, but Ruach Hakodesh uttered ‘*Ken Yirbeh*’ they will *definitely* multiply. Babies were being born six at a time! The midwives realized the facts. Even if one may not understand the situation, Hashem is always present and orchestrates the ultimate outcome. Avraham understood during the Akeda that Hashem was present with him, and Hashem revealed to him a powerful secret in life. Hashem gives us the strength to do the right thing, to draw closer to Him and fulfill His commandments. What was one of the outcomes of the Akeda? Hashem promised Avraham that his descendants, our nation, would be blessed, will overpower our enemies, and inherit our land. Avraham acquired this blessing for eternity. These midwives continued in the path of our forefather Avraham. They did what was just, and stood before Pharaoh with their lives in the balance. They prayed to Hashem, and expressed their desire to only fulfill Hashem’s wishes and not Pharaoh’s. They were

saved from Pharaoh, and merited many great things. As a direct result, Moshe was born, naturally as a regular baby, just as all babies are born, yet he grew to be a great person, as he excelled in spirituality until he became Moshe Rabbenu. He developed and transformed his nature to reach outstanding holiness and spiritual heights through the guidance of the Torah. His natural essence was altered and elevated through leading his life in the ways of the Torah. This child, Moshe, grew up in Pharaoh's palace. Pharaoh had decreed that all children like Moshe should be put to their death immediately upon their birth. It is nothing short of a miracle that Moshe remained alive and actually grew up right in front of Pharaoh, within his own palace! The leader and liberator of our holy nation had been disciplined within Pharaoh's household and raised by Pharaoh's own daughter. In fact, he was saved from death by Pharaoh's daughter as well! When he grew older, began maturing, he went out to his people, the Jewish nation, leaving behind the luxuries and comfort of the palace, in order to take part in their suffering. Through this sensitivity he began to grow to be their true leader, to be the one who would bring the Torah down from heaven. He was raised in the palace, not mixed within the actual exile, so that his own mind and spirit should not feel familiar with low servitude and slave work. He was raised in the magnificent palace of Pharaoh, a place where fear and apprehension for people was unheard of, and actually used that experience to understand that only Hashem is to be feared and revered. He learned all the royal qualities, how to rule and how to lead, from Pharaoh's palace. May Hashem watch over us, Amen.

### ***Insights on the Parasha***

1 – Batya, the daughter of Pharaoh, saw the basket containing baby Moshe, and a miracle occurred in which her 'Amatah', her arm, which she extended outward to retrieve him, miraculously extended many 'Amot', many cubits in length. In 1923, Rabbi Meir Shapiro introduced the revolutionary idea of Daf Yomi at the First World Congress of the World Agudath Israel in Vienna on August 16<sup>th</sup>. The first cycle of Daf Yomi commenced on the first day of Rosh Hashanah 5684 (September 11<sup>th</sup>, 1923). Today, Daf Yomi has been taken up by tens of thousands of Jews worldwide. The first cycle was completed in 1931. In 1933, Rabbi Shapiro became ill with typhus and passed away within the month, on October 27<sup>th</sup>. At that initial meeting, they discussed at great length this important undertaking that was about focusing

on saving many souls, as they said: "This is what we are dealing with, a commitment which will be hard and heavy to accomplish, and is even more than a human can naturally handle!" Rabbi Meir Shapiro replied: "The daughter of Pharaoh had a regular sized arm and simply could not reach the basket of Moshe to save him, however, because she reached out to save Moshe, because she made an attempt, regardless of nature, a miracle was made on her behalf and her hand lengthened. Everyone should always try to help others, even when the goal is seemingly too far to reach, one must try and reach out anyway, be confident in Hashem's guidance, and in the merit of trying, Hashem will help him to eventually achieve his goal!" Daf Yomi was born.

### ***History in Brief***

*100 years after the Hurban, 170AD.* The dove delivered the note from the R' Yossi to the cave of R' Shimon. Upon reading it, he and his son cried over the fact that they could not be with the other Hachamim, teaching and learning together, to reveal why the curses are written differently in Parashat Ki Tavo. Why were there no words of consolation within the curses of Parashat Ki Tavo? Eliyahu Hanavi came and revealed the answer to R' Shimon. The consolation was indeed hidden within the curses, but they would only be revealed in the future. Everything depended on performing Teshuvah, repentance. R' Shimon immediately wrote this on a note and send it back to the Hachamim in the beak of the dove. It flew back to R' Yossi, who stood there all day waiting, hoping for a response. He was overjoyed when he saw the dove returning with a note. He praised the dove, saying it was more beautiful than all other birds, and took the note. He showed the note to the other Hachamim who were very impressed.

### ***Health and Recovery***

Adam was instructed to eat vegetation, herbs, and fruits, from that which grows forth from the ground. Due to generation decline and sins, after the Great Flood man was instructed to also eat meat from animals, with many laws and guidelines. Due to the food that man eats, many sicknesses form as a result. It is in our power and is therefore our responsibility to heal our bodies naturally, and we must do so according to our abilities. The body in essence does not need external supplements in order to heal itself, it is designed to do so naturally. What we need to learn is how not to do things that prevent the body

from naturally healing itself, and not to directly damage the body. We are the ones that cause the damage and prevent our own healing. A broken bone can heal by itself through rest and the proper care. The body knows how to heal wounds caused by external factors. Hashem created the body to be self-sufficient. We need to learn how not to damage the body, and not to get in the way of the healing process and allow the body to do what it knows how to do naturally.

### **Rishon LeSion:**

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

When the Rishon LeSion R' Avraham Ashkenazi passed away, all the Hachamim turned to R' Yaakov to serve in his place. He turned down the offer and said that R' Rephael Meyer should serve instead. In those days, all matters in Yerushalayim were decided by the mouth of R' Yaakov. After R' Rephael Meyer passed away, R' Yaakov then agreed to serve as Rishon LeSion. It was a day of great celebration in Jerusalem. The people dressed their best, and congregated into the Shul named after Rebi Yochanan Ben Zakai. R' Yaakov went to the house of the leader where he accepted the official title of Hacham Bashi, and was then escorted to the Shul by guards. Along the road Arabs all stopped what they were doing to wish him peace and success. They all recognized his holiness and greatness. As he entered the Shul courtyard, the people sang a unique song composed in his honor. Among the great Hachamim who greeted him were the Brisker Rav and R' Shmuel Salant. They cloaked him in special rabbinic garb and he stood at the podium, where he delivered a Derasha to the people's delight. He began his holy work for the sake of the people and didn't stop.

### **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: if people knew the effect that 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**

After witnesses testified before R' Zalman, the Rabbi of the city, that Yosef the taxi driver desecrated Shabbat by driving his passengers during Shabbat, R' Zalman sent a summons from Bet Din to Yosef, but he did not come. He then tried to summon Yosef's father, but was told that the man was very sick and couldn't come. He then summoned Yosef's mother. When she heard the charges, that her son sinned and caused others to sin by desecrating Shabbat, he threw up her hands and screamed that it was a lie. Her son was a righteous person who would never do such a thing and the witnesses were fraudsters. Just come to their home and see the self-sacrifice her son was performing to care for his sick father. Ask the family and you will understand that Yosef her son was a Tzaddik who would never desecrate Shabbat!

### **Laws: Milah**

- 1** – One should choose a Mohel who is exceptional in his skill and Yirat Hashem.
- 2** – A gentile may not perform a Milah.
- 3** – The father should appoint the Mohel as his messenger, and stand nearby. If the father is an expert Mohel, then he should perform the Milah himself.
- 4** – Some have the custom that the father cuts the Orlah and the Mohel finishes the Milah. If the father

may not do this properly due to his nerves, which would then cause the Mohel to have to cut again, causing unnecessary pain to the baby, then the father should not do the cut.

**5** – If a father is a Mohel but wants to be the Sandak, then he can give the honor of Mohel to another, and be credited as the Mohel as well if he helps the Mohel perform the Milah, i.e. he holds the baby's legs straight.

**6** – If the grandfather is concerned with his son, the father who is a Mohel, performing the Milah on his grandson, and is worried that he would not cut properly the first time which would cause unnecessary pain to the baby, then the father should listen to the grandfather.

**7** – The father must be near the Mohel during the Milah, for it is like a Korban, and a Korban requires the attendance of the owner to be standing nearby.

**8** – A Mohel, who never actually circumcised someone yet, even though he may be certified and capable, should not perform the first Milah unless he is being supervised by a professional Mohel. If a professional is not present, then the circumcision must be postponed until a professional is available, even if it is the 8<sup>th</sup> day, since it is a risk and danger to perform the Milah under the current circumstances.

#### *Sponsors*

\*\*\* **Mr. Eli Shalouh HaCohen, his wife Esther, and their children.** Blessings and success for the entire family, Leilui Nishmat the Chief Hacham of Damascus Mekubal Hacham **Rabbi Nissim Indibo HaCohen Ben Nazira a”h**, may his merits protect us, Amen. \*\*\* **Anonymous Donor.** Blessings and success for the entire family, Leilui Nishmat the great Mekubal **Rabbi Yitzchak Kadouri Ben Tifaha a”h**, may his merits protect us, Amen. \*\*\* **Anonymous Donor.** Blessings and success for the entire family, Leilui Nishmat the fine man **Yaakov Jack Swed Ben Badia a”h**, Amen. \*\*\* **Mr. Danny Shkouri, his wife Evelyn, and their children.** Blessings and success for the entire family, Leilui Nishmat **Sammy Ben Nazira a”h**, Amen. \*\*\* **Mrs. Linda Khalouf and her children: Eli, Victor, Kadi, and Bella.** Blessings and success for the entire family, Leilui Nishmat

their father **Moshe Khalouf Ben Jamile a”h**, Amen. \*\*\* **Mr. Yosef Alkada, his wife Vicky, their parents, and their children.** Blessings and success for the entire family, Leilui Nishmat his mother **Rachel Bat Latifeh a”h**, Amen. \*\*\* **Mrs. Miriam Abadi, her husband Morris, and their children.** Blessings and success for the entire family, Leilui Nishmat her father **Yitzchak Ben Miriam a”h**, Amen. \*\*\* **The Farhi Family.** Blessings and success for the entire family, Leilui Nishmat their mother **Sarah Bat Salha a”h**, Amen. \*\*\* **Mr. Farah Hamra, his wife Dina, and their children.** Blessings and success for the entire family, Leilui Nishmat his father **Yosef Ben Nahlie a”h**, and Leilui Nishmat his sister **Rachel Bat Latifah a”h**, 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. \*\*\* **Mr. Jimmy Guindi HaCohen, his wife Paula, and their children.** Blessings and success for the entire family, Mazal Tov on the birth of a daughter **Sarah Nina**, Mabrouk, Amen.

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