

Congregation

◆◆◆"Beth Yosef"◆◆◆

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

Rabbi Aharon Farhi
Parashat Va'era
28th Tevet 5783

Maqam Nawa
Issue #1014

Mr. Eliyahu Levy, President
Haftarat Ko Amar
January 21st 2023

*Candle Lighting 4:41pm * Shekiah 4:59pm * Shir Hashirim 4:40pm followed by Mincha Friday Night
Shaharit Shabbat 8:15am * Mincha Shabbat 4:25pm * Shabbat Ends 5:42pm & Rabbenu Tam 6:12pm
Time for Talit 6:17am * Seasonal Hour 58:00 * Alot Hashahar 6:05am * Netz Hachama 7:15am
Weekday Mincha 4:50pm * Earliest Time for Arbit 4:24pm * Tzet Hacoachavim 5:37pm * Chatzot 12:07
Latest Time for Morning Keriat Shema 8:59am * Latest Time for Morning Amidah 9:57am
Time for Talit next week Parashat Bo 6:11am*

Monday January 23rd will be Rosh Hodesh Shevat

Shovevim Fasting:

*Thursday January 19th fast starts 6:06am and ends 5:22pm
Monday January 23rd there's no fasting - Rosh Hodesh Shevat.*

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

To sponsor our weekly publication, please mail your donation to:

**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

In this week's Parasha, and in the upcoming Parashiot, we learn in detail the way in which Hashem redeemed Bnei Yisrael from servitude in Egypt and brought them to Har Sinai for Matan Torah. Throughout, Hashem disregarded the laws of nature and openly performed outstanding miracles on Bnei Yisrael's behalf for all the world to witness. The magicians and sorcerers of Egypt admitted that the plagues were the direct performance of Hashem. While the first nine plagues were carried out through Moshe and Aharon, the tenth plague was escalated and Hashem personally killed the firstborns at exactly midnight. The Yam Suf was split, further clarity of Hashem's direct personal performance in saving Bnei Yisrael. Why? Hashem usually runs the world in a natural fashion, giving the illusion that it all makes sense on its own without Hashem's direct involvement. The story of Purim can be thought of as a nature sequence of events for the most part, and Hashem did not need to

openly defy the laws of nature. The Ramban writes: Hashem wanted to bring Bnei Yisrael out of the depths of 49 levels of impurity and up to great heights of pure faith, belief, and understanding that everything is Hashem, there is nothing else besides Hashem, so the nation can be born with complete spirituality culminating in Matan Torah, Naaseh VeNishmah, so that no matter what the future holds, a Jew will always remember with complete conviction that Hashem is One and Almighty. Their spirituality and physicality had been so brutally decimated by Pharaoh during their many years of slavery, and nothing short of open revelations could have set them straight. Today, every day, Hashem performs miracles on our behalf, whether with our health, our livelihood, our many different situations in life, but Hashem hides His involvement behind nature, because we do not need to see it openly. Hashem already revealed everything to us and the entire

world when He redeemed our nation from Egypt and gave us the Torah at Har Sinai. It is our responsibility to remember every day that Hashem is the Almighty and handles everything, every detail, behind a curtain of nature. We must believe, trust with faith, remember, and thank Hashem every single moment for everything. May Hashem watch over us, Amen.

Insights on the Parasha

1 – Pharaoh said: *I shall send you out, and you shall not continue to stand (remain)*. If he said that he is sending them out, why does he need to also say that they will not continue to remain? The Pasuk says, *Avraham awoke and went to the place where he would stand*. ‘Standing’ means praying. Here too, Pharaoh meant that they will not continue to ‘stand’, meaning they will not spend time in prayers, but rather be quick in sending them away.

History in Brief

100 years after the Hurban, 170AD. For thirteen years R’ Shimon and his son R’ Elazar hid away in a cave, completely isolated from the world. They merited to write the holy Sefer Zohar which brings light to the whole world. The heavens agreed to allow this merit. Until R’ Shimon, Hashem had hidden away these holy secrets of the Torah for all generations, until after the destruction of the second Bet Hamikdash when Bnei Yisrael really needed inspiration and light to guide them through the many upcoming years of exile. This was accomplished through R’ Shimon and his colleagues. With this merit, R’ Shimon earned an eternal place amongst the great righteous of Jewish history, with Eliyahu Hanavi and all the kings and prophets. All who love Hashem is beloved to Hashem. At that time he heard his name being called,

“Shimon”, not with a title Rebi Shimon, and he knew that it was Hashem who was calling out to him with love. He stood and recited that Hashem is greatness and strength etc. He was then able to reveal the secrets, which had never been allowed until then. The words of the holy Zohar are the essence of the world, the fabric, the core.

Health and Recovery

In our generations, factory owners, with the development of technology, have studied and developed various types of synthetic and chemical materials that influence the tongue sensors and make them feel different flavors. These are the variety of ingredients and flavors that we see written on industrial products. For example, you can make apple juice without having a hint of an apple, and the tongue will taste an apple, so you interfere with creation and trick your health. The industry is becoming more and more sophisticated and is learning how to influence taste sensors more and more, with the goal of getting more and more people to eat the same products. Perhaps you will ask yourself why Hashem, who is omnipotent, did not naturally make us sweets like those produced in factories. Isn’t it much easier to make a candy than to make a fig? The answer is that Hashem takes care of us like a father, with care and consideration, and He therefore gave us fruits with reasonable sweetness so we would eat enough but not too much, and also gave us the sweetness of the fruit with a concentration that is not strong and accompanied by fruit fibers, so that the sweetness will be best digested while our bodies remain undamaged. If the fruit were as sweet as all the industrially produced sweets then we would not stop eating them and we would be harmed. Therefore we must overcome the physical temptation and prevent any harm to our health. King

Solomon compared the troubles that result from eating wrongly, and the troubles that ensued as a result of serious transgressions caused by the tongue, as follows: “Death and life can be decided by the tongue”.

Mussar: Love for Hashem

There is nothing greater than loving Hashem! All services of Hashem sprout forth from this attribute. There is no comparison between a person who serves Hashem with love and a person who serves Hashem with fear. Loving Hashem is one of the 613 Mitzvot that one is able to fulfill at any given moment. One can fulfill this Mitzvah even with just his thoughts. Everyone is constantly thinking about something – one should just substitute his usual thoughts with some thoughts of love for Hashem, and he will have fulfilled a great Mitzvah! Love Hashem and His great Torah, which is the source and the wellspring of life, from which you can draw much merit. If someone gives you a gift, do you not automatically begin to like them? If they completely support you and grant you all of your needs, do you not begin to love them? If they then save your life and prevent, or even cure you, from terrible sicknesses, do you not feel great love towards that person? How much more must we love Hashem who grants us everything, whether things appear to be coming from heaven or from another person – everything in fact really always comes from Hashem! For every breath we take we must thank Hashem and feel great love towards Him. Do not close off your heart from this truth! Hashem continuously grants us life and countless blessings of goodness, even while we are sinning, and then even allows us the time to repent and have remorse over our wrongdoings. One can begin counting the great favors Hashem performs for us starting even from the time

he was in his mother’s womb, from before he was even born! There are countless favors Hashem does for us each and every moment, most of which we are completely unaware, but unfortunately we do not even think enough about the ones we actually do know about. We must strengthen our love for Hashem and our bond with Him, fulfill His Mitzvot, and toil greatly in the depths of His holy Torah. May Hashem merit us, Amen.

Rav Nissim Indibo HaCohen

The chief rabbi of Damascus was born in 1857 and was granted longevity. He died at the age of 114 years, and his mind was clear until his last day, living in close proximity of Bet Knesset Shevet Achim in Damascus. He was one of the students of Rabbi Yitzhak Abulafia, who was born in Damascus in 1830 and was appointed chief rabbi of Damascus in 1873. He was 43 years old when he officiated as rabbinat. He wrote four books on the parts of the Shulchan Aruch, titled Pnei Yitzchak. In the last year he went to the Holy Land and settled in Tiberias. He passed away in 1910 at the age of 80. His student Rabbi Nissim served as Dayan in the Damascus court. When he died in 1910, he became the chief rabbi of Damascus. He wrote an introduction to the book: Yaskil Abadi, written by Rabbi Ovadia Hedaya of Aleppo. Rabbi Nissim was highly valued by his community and even by the gentiles and the authorities in Damascus. When the Syrian government issued a death sentence to the Israeli spy Eli Cohen, of blessed memory, a special permission was given to Hacham Nissim to visit him in prison and confide with him before his death. On his last day he asked his disciple Rabbi Yitzchak Asa to go home, and after an hour Rabbi Asa hurried to go to work, but Hacham Nissim persuaded him to stay. He told him to take all his sons out of

the house, and he then recited confession for himself, read the Shema, and passed away on the seventh of Shevat in 1973. May his merits protect us, Amen.

Story

Unable to summon Yosef or his father, R' Zalman sent a summons from Bet Din to Yosef's mother. When she heard the charges, that her son had allegedly sinned and caused others to sin by desecrating Shabbat, she 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! The Rabbi realized that he would make no progress talking to Yosef's mother, who clearly thought the absolute best of her son. He decided instead to find out more information from other family members, and to pray to Hashem for help and guidance in the matter, to instill thoughts of repentance into the heart and mind of Yosef. At that time the Rabbi received an invite to a large gathering of Rabbanim to take place in a few weeks in Vilna, hosted by the holy Chafetz Chaim, may his merits protect us. On the appointed day, R' Zalman traveled to Vilna to attend the gathering. The Vaad HaYeshivot attended and the Chafetz Chaim addressed them. After many hours, the gathering ended, and the Rabbanim each went back to the home of their host to rest.

Sponsors

*** **Anonymous Donor.** Blessings and success for the entire family, Amen. *** **Mr. Soli Araman, his wife Vicky, and their children.** Blessings and success for the

entire family, Refuah Shelemah, Amen. *** **Mr. Eli Levy, his wife Becky, and their children.** Blessings, health, and success for the entire family, Amen. *** **Mr. Edmon Saade, his wife Hayat, and their children.** Blessings and success for the entire family, Leilui Nishmat his mother **Shafika Bat Mazal 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. 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. *** **Blessed brothers: Aharon and Yitzchak Sarwa.** Blessings and success for the entire family, Leilui Nishmat their father **Natan Ben Zahie Abu Shamah a"h**, Amen.

Abraham Cohen: Cohen's Mini Market
902 Ave U in Brooklyn * 347-348-9779
Food Stamps Accepted

Pharmacist **Mrs. Vivian Jack Kabariti**,
accepting all types of health insurance,
free delivery of medications to your home.
* 2934 Ave R * (718) 758-4800 *

*This week's sponsorship total is \$800
143,200 Website visits!*

* * * * *

www.BethYosef.com