

Congregation

◆◆◆"Beth Yosef"◆◆◆

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

Rabbi Aharon Farhi
Parashat Yitro
20th Shevat 5783

Maqam Husseni
Issue #1017

Mr. Eliyahu Levy, President
Haftarat Bishnat Mot
February 11th 2023

*Candle Lighting 5:06pm * Shekiah 5:24pm * Shir Hashirim 5:05pm followed by Minha Friday Night
Shaharit Shabbat 8:15am * Minha Shabbat 4:50pm * Shabbat Ends 6:07pm & Rabbenu Tam 6:37pm
Time for Talit 5:53am * Seasonal Hour 62:00 * Alot Hashahar 5:41am * Netz Hachama 6:55am
Weekday Minha 5:10pm * Earliest Time for Arbit 4:45pm * Tzet Hacoachavim 6:02pm * Chatzot 12:10
Latest Time for Morning Keriat Shema 8:47am * Latest Time for Morning Amidah 9:49am*

Shovevim Fasting:

Thursday February 9th fast starts 5:45am and ends 5:39pm

Monday February 13th fast starts 5:43am and ends 5:55pm

Thursday February 16th fast starts 5:39am and ends 5:58pm

*This concludes the Shovevim Fasting, all those who participated will
be blessed from Hashem for their efforts, Tizku L'Mitzvot, Amen.*

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

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“Moshe ascended to Hashem, and Hashem called to him from the mountain, saying, “So shall you say to the Bet Yaakov, the House of Yaakov, and relate to Bnei Yisrael... You shall be to Me a kingdom of ministers and a holy nation. These are the words that you shall speak to Bnei Yisrael” Bet Yaakov, the House of Yaakov, our Sages teach us, refers to the women of our nation. They are the ones who maintain the home. They create the atmosphere and set the tone. Bnei Yisrael refers to the men of our nation. The Chatam Sofer explains: Before the Torah was given to our nation, Hashem instructed Moshe to say to the House of Yaakov, the women – what shall he say to them? – He should say to the women that they should relate to Bnei Yisrael – the women are to speak to the men and the family. What shall the women say to their families? You shall be to Me, Hashem, a kingdom of ministers and a holy nation. These are the words that – the women – shall speak to Bnei Yisrael. The lesson is that the women must realize their role and responsibility – one who is small in his own eyes is fit to lead a tribe of our nation! A woman should not belittle her abilities and underestimate her capable influence within a

family. The home depends on a woman. The children's discipline is a direct product of a woman's efforts. She has very serious responsibilities riding upon her shoulders. A wise man once said – The man is the head of the family, but the woman is the neck, and the neck controls towards which direction the head will turn. If the woman is wise, she will raise her children to have Midot Tovot, correct etiquette, to honor parents and adults, and live with faith and trust in Hashem. If she is wise, she will accord great care to the candle lighting for Shabbat each week, honoring the great day of rest that includes holiness, love, truth, faith, and peace. If she is fortunate and wise, she will teach her offspring to learn Torah and follow its laws with happiness and tranquility. She will make sure to keep her home clean from all forms of profanity and indecent slang verbiage. The Mishnah has awarded the mother of Rabi Yehoshua Ben Chanania with the credit for his Torah and greatness by stating 'Fortunate is the one who gave birth to Rabi Yehoshua'. The Gemara asks: With what merit do women earn a portion in the World to Come? In other words, what are their most important responsibilities –

what weighs heaviest upon their shoulders to perform? The answer is: In the merit of raising their children according to the Torah, sending them to learn Torah, and sending off their husbands to study Torah. This is the answer written in the Gemara. Earning merit and reward for the World to Come is not simple. The Gemara counts it as one of three things that can only be attained through pain and hardship. A woman must radiate warmth of deep-rooted trust and belief in Hashem. She must be strict with the observance of Kosher, purity, and overall spirituality. A woman must carefully supervise her children's discipline and upbringing, ensuring that they are walking along the correct path towards Hashem, reciting blessings, praying, learning, and developing their fear of heaven. She must remind her husband that there are Torah classes available for him to attend for an hour or two after returning home from work, for the Torah that he learns brings great holiness and spirituality into their home. These are the roles and responsibilities of a woman in a family. She is called the '*Akeret Habayit*'. Therefore, before the Torah was given to our nation, Moshe Rabbenu was sent with an important message for the women. Only through the efforts and success of the women can the Torah be given to our nation and carried out throughout all of the generations to come. The women are the ones responsible for the continuity of the Torah's observance for all years to come. If a woman fulfills these obligations and responsibilities, she will be rewarded greatly for all of eternity in the World to Come. May Hashem watch over us, Amen.

Insights on the Parasha

1 – Yitro told Moshe “*Now heed my voice, I shall advise you, and may Hashem be with you*” The Gemara teaches: *What should a man do in order to gain wisdom? He should learn – and ask for mercy from the One who grants wisdom. What should a man do in order to gain riches? He should work – and ask for mercy from the One who grants wealth.* Here too, Yitro was explaining that although he has supplied Moshe with very sound advice, nonetheless one requires heavenly assistance if he wishes to succeed – ‘*and may Hashem be with you*’. Without Hashem's help there is nothing – no wisdom, no advice, no understanding, and no success. Therefore, we must use the power of

prayer in order to succeed in our performances, for then Hashem will help us and watch over us. (*Nahar Shalom*)

History in Brief

100 years after the Hurban, 170AD. Rebi Shimon Bar Yohai was honored and respected in this world and in the next world. Rebi Chiya told Rabbenu Hakadosh that Rebi Shimon and his son Rebi Elazar once sat for two years without eating or drinking while they expounded on the hidden secrets of the Torah and its wisdom. Rabbenu Hakadosh could not understand this. Rebi Shimon Ben Gamliel told him, my son, do not wonder about this, for they were lions, like what the Pasuk says, when a lion roars who is not afraid. If the upper worlds shake, should we not also. He did not have to decree a fast, but rather prayed and was answered. When he asked, Hashem fulfilled. Rebi Abba says, had the Torah not been given to Moshe Rabbenu on Har Sinai, Hashem would have then given it to Rebi Shimon Bar Yohai who would then give it to Bnei Yisrael. When Rebi Shimon passed away from this world, a darkness descended, until Mashiach comes and lights up the world again with Torah. His generation was like no other.

Health and Recovery

Regarding all bakery products that you buy, make sure they are made of whole wheat flour. This is important to remark: unlike sugar that should be avoided completely, whole flour in itself is very healthy, however the recipe ingredients cause problems when baking with added sugar, salt, and margarine. Your eyes must be trained to be wise to know when to draw closer and when to distance away. You need to know that full-grain pastry products satisfy the hunger and do not cause you to want to eat more and more. This is in contrast to products made from white flour, which cause many people to feel unceasing hunger. If you are one of those who, even after a large meal, still feel hungry, you should switch to eating whole wheat bread. Two slices of whole wheat bread are equivalent to five slices of white flour bread. Fresh bread, even made from whole wheat, cannot be chewed properly in the mouth, so the proper way to eat fresh bread is to first prepare it with a toaster and thus it can be chewed properly. If you cannot

prepare it in the oven or in the toaster, you can place the bread in an air tight bag, and it will remain fresh for a few days. The Chafetz Chaim one time invited the Tzaddik Rav Naftali for a meal at his table on Friday night. When he reached the blessing of Hamotzi, he saw that the Challahs were black bread and he wrinkled his nose. The Chafetz Chaim noticed this and said to him: "Black bread is very good for you", and repeated it several times. This took place in 1920.

Mussar: Jealousy

Jealousy is a terrible attribute to become accustomed to and is a portion of anger. It is the known way of man to be competitive by nature. When one has something another doesn't have, be it any type of possession that is worth acquiring, the latter works hard to attain the object as well, thinking that if the first has the object, why can't he as well. Shelomo Hamelech declares that he has seen the toil and labor of man and has labeled it as a result of jealousy. Jealousy leads one to covet his friend's possessions. When one is jealous he is uninterested with what he has and is therefore not happy. This is compared to a slave who questions his master's actions. Such is not a slave. How can one dare question Hashem's ways? Hashem gives and Hashem takes; it is within His control alone. Work and toil are meaningless without Hashem's blessing. Jealousy leads to argument, as is evident in the episode with Korah. This terrible attribute leads to sickness, and the body and soul are constantly pained and weakening from it. Life isn't lived properly, and the effects of jealousy become noticeable on one's face. He is constantly mourning, and his appetite is depleted. His logic is not straight, and his praying and learning takes a heavy blow. His deeds are damaged and everyone around him is affected. We must distance ourselves from this terrible characteristic and live our lives to the fullest. May Hashem watch over us, Amen. (*Peleh Yo'etz*)

Gaon R' Shimon Ba'adani zt"l 1928-2023

The terrible news of R' Shimon's passing has darkened the world of Torah with mourning and a sense of emptiness, with pain and sorrow. After the passing of Gaon Hacham R' Shalom Cohen zt"l last year in the month of Av, R' Shimon took lead of the Sephardic community in Israel, leading in

the Moetzet Chachmei HaTorah. Indeed for many years he served an integral role as well, leading Sephardic Israel Jewry in Torah. His holy light has now distinguished in this world. He was born on the 8th of Tevet in 1928, a 'Ben Zekunim' to his father R' David and his mother Haviva a"h in Hadera. His parents had moved to Israel from Teiman after the first World War. They birthed ten children, but only two sons and one daughter survived. R' Shimon was their eleventh and last child. In his youth, his parents sent him to a religious school, not a regular Talmud Torah Yeshiva, and he studied there until he reached the age of Mitzvot. He was then transferred to a Talmud Torah to learn from a Rebbe.

Story

Rav Zalman approached the father of David, the driver accused of desecrating Shabbat, and was told that due to the severity of his illness he was on his way to visit the Chafetz Chaim to receive a blessing for his health and recovery. Rav Zalman informed David's father that he need not travel any further because the Chafetz Chaim was in fact on that very train with them. He was overjoyed and thanked the Rabbi of his city. Rav Zalman then approached the Chafetz Chaim's son-in-law and asked him to quickly advise the holy Rabbi that the man who is approaching him for a blessing has a son that is accused of publicly desecrating Shabbat. The Rabbi will know what is appropriate to say. He went quickly, but David's father was already sitting and speaking with the Chafetz Chaim, with tears pouring down his face as he told over his troubles, how the doctors were giving up hope of healing him, and he asked for a blessing and a prayer.

Laws

1 – If a woman is standing before you and you hear her singing, or if a part of her body has been uncovered which she usually covers, it is forbidden to recite Shema, prayers, or Torah in front of her, even if she is your wife. But a woman in front of a woman is allowed. As well, the hair of a married woman which is usually covered but is now not covered, it is forbidden to read in front of her, but if she always reveals the hair of her head, even though it is a bad custom to not cover the hair, it is permissible to recite in her presence.

In front of a woman who is speaking words of foolishness and lightheadedness one may not pray or recite blessings; however, one is permitted to think Torah thoughts.

2 – When one bathes and then covers himself with a long towel or garment so that he can dry himself off, he still must not recite a blessing or learn Torah until he wears trousers or garments that are actually worn on his body. A woman who blesses within the Mikvah must mix the water so that it will not be transparent, and hug her body with her arms and then recite the blessing.

3 – Tracing an animal skin in order to make grooves as lines for writing a Mezuzah, a Tefillin, or a Torah scroll, is a violation of Shabbat.

4 – Cutting leather according to a measured size with a tool is prohibited during Shabbat. As well, cutting wood or cloth according to a measured size is also prohibited.

5 – It is forbidden to cut toilet paper on its perforated lines during Shabbat. Likewise, nylon or plastic marked with the place where it is to be cut is also forbidden. It is also forbidden to tear open a closed tissue box on Shabbat on the spot marked for opening.

6 – For food and eating purposes there is no problem of cutting, even if done with precision and measurement.

7 – One reason that seven people are given Aliyot during Shabbat is so that if one person was unable for whatever reason to go to Shul all seven days of the week and did not recite Barechu, then he can answer Barechu seven times during Sefer Torah on Shabbat morning.

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Amen. *** **Mr. Eli Levy, his wife Becky, and their children.** Blessings, health, and success for the entire family, Amen. *** **Minyan Minha & Arbit “Bet Aharon”.** Blessings and success, Amen. *** **Blessed siblings: Sammy, Simon, and Rina of the Esses Family.** Blessings and success for the entire family, Leilui Nishmat their father **Ovadia Ben Rina a”h**, Amen. *** **Mrs. Tina Farhi, her husband Jack, their parents, and their children.** Blessings and success for the entire family, Leilui Nishmat her father **Yosef Ben Regina a”h**, Amen. *** **Mr. Farah Hamra, his wife Dina, and their children.** Blessings and success for the entire family, Leilui Nishmat his sister **Loris Chaya Bat Latifah a”h**, please recite *Tehillim* for her *Neshamah* this *Shabbat Parashat Yitro* in your *Shul*, *Tizku L’Mitzvot*, 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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