

Congregation

◆◆◆"Beth Yosef"◆◆◆

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

Rabbi Aharon Farhi

*Parashat **Ki Tisa Parah***

18th Adar 5783

Maqam Hijaz

Issue #1021

Mr. Eliyahu Levy, President

*Haftarat **Vayhi Devar***

March 11th 2023

*Candle Lighting 5:39pm * Shekiah 5:57pm * Shir Hashirim 5:35pm followed by Mincha Friday Night
Shaharit Shabbat 8:15am * Mincha Shabbat 5:20pm * Shabbat Ends 6:40pm & Rabbenu Tam 7:10pm*

*Time for Talit 6:07am * Seasonal Hour 68:00 * Alot Hashahar 4:53am * Netz Hachama 6:15am*

*Weekday Mincha 6:50pm * Earliest Time for Arbit 6:10pm * Tzet Hacoachavim 6:35pm * Chatzot 1:05*

*Latest Time for Morning Keriat Shema 8:17am * Latest Time for Morning Amidah 9:25am*

Time for Talit next week Parashat Vayakhel Pekudei 5:53am

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's Parasha speaks about the *Ketoret* that was performed twice every day in the Bet Hamikdash. The Gemara teaches us that the Angel of Death had given this secret as a present to Moshe Rabbenu when he ascended to heaven to receive the Torah. The Ketoret was cherished by Hashem more than any other sacrifice, since other sacrifices, Asham, Chatat, Olah, Shelamim, and Mincha, were all intended to atone for sins, while the Ketoret was not brought to atone for a sin, rather it was only brought for joy and happiness, as it says *oil and Ketoret delight the heart* – the oil of the Menorah coupled with the performance of the daily Ketoret, for the Menorah was kindled when they were bringing the Ketoret. The Ketoret provided us with a powerful advantage: its smoke and scent was an unbelievable spiritual 'medicine' for the person that experienced it. While the Ketoret was brought upon the Golden Altar in the Hechal opposite the Aron, if one was present in the outside Azarah while the Ketoret was being brought, his heart would become enlightened to repent and perform true and complete Teshuvah. His heart would be cleansed from all impurity. Just as the Tzitz, with the name of Hashem written upon it, would imbue Yirat Hashem into the hearts of those who gazed upon it and they would perform Teshuvah, so too would one be affected from smelling the

Ketoret while it was being brought upon the Altar. Since it is so precious and valuable, one should strive to recite the passages of Ketoret every morning and afternoon. Reciting this can be more beloved than prayer. *Rabi Shimon Bar Yochai* says: If people would realize how precious the Pitum HaKetoret is before Hashem, they would crown every word and letter with gold, and place it on their head like a golden crown. Anyone who pleasantly recites Ketoret everyday by Shaharit and Mincha, word by word, not missing even one letter, and understands what he is reading, he will be saved that day from unfortunate situations, unfortunate deaths, improper thoughts, and will be protected that day from evil and damage. It is definitely better to read it from parchment, as a Sefer Torah is written. During a time of sickness, disease, and epidemic, the best recovery can come through the recitation of the Ketoret. Once, a Rabbi visited a city that was known for its terrible sicknesses and epidemics that plagued its citizens. He instructed them to take 40 heaven fearing scholars, place ten of them on each of the four sides of the city, and have them recite the Pitum HaKetoret. After doing so, Hashem removed the sicknesses from the city. They changed the name of the city from Tarsa to *Meta Machsia*, meaning the *city of mercy*. One should recite the Pitum HaKetoret from a parchment

when he is sick in order to attain a speedy recovery. Today it is written by a Sofer using the Sefer Torah font known as Ashurit. May Hashem watch over us, Amen. (*Levush Yosef*)

Insights on the Parasha

1 – Moshe saw the Golden Calf in the image of a donkey and an ox. He asked the donkey who had made it, and the donkey responded that the Erev Rav, whose flesh is like that of a donkey, had created it. He asked the ox who had made it, and the ox explained that the ring which was used to raise the bones of Yosef out of the Nile River, on which the words ‘raise up ox’ were written upon, had been provided to Aharon by the Erev Rav along with all the other gold rings that had been collected, and when cast into the fire produced the ox that he was. This is the meaning of the Pasuk, *An ox knows its acquirer, and a donkey knows his caretaker, but Yisrael do not recognize* – the ox and donkey refer to the Erev Rav, who were identified as the true culprits for committing the sin of the golden calf, while Bnei Yisrael were not really responsible for the sin. (*Tikunei HaZohar*)

History in Brief

100 years after the Hurban, 170AD. R’ Abba says: After Rebi Shimon Bar Yohai was Doresh on the hidden wisdom, he said the Pasuk: For there Hashem commanded the blessing, life forever. When R’ Shimon quoted it, he did not say the word life. I was writing, but did not write life because he didn’t say it. I couldn’t move my head because the fire was too great and I couldn’t look. I shook. All that day the fire surrounded him and the house, as I sat on the floor, and others couldn’t enter. Afterwards, when the fire left, I saw that R’ Shimon had departed from his body and the world, wrapped in Tzitzit and leaning to his right. His face looked happy. R’ Elazar his son then kissed his hands. I took the dirt from under his feet. The Chaverim wanted to cry, unable to speak. R’ Elazar fell to the floor three times, unable to speak. He then said: My father! My father! I am left alone! R’ Chiya then got up and said: Until now R’ Shimon had been leading us, now we

must show him respect and arrange to take care of him.

Health and Recovery

Folic acid is important for building up our body. It is essential for the metabolism in the body and for preventing blood vessel diseases. It is found in green leaves such as lettuce and the like. It is important and recommended to periodically monitor folic acid levels in the body while conducting a general blood test, especially in adults today. The worldwide medical recommendation is that women aged 20-40 should intake about 400mg/day of folic acid and monitor the amounts in the blood. One of the side effects is constipation. Another important level one must monitor is Vitamin B12, which is found in animal-derived foods, especially in all types of beef, because beef has 10 times the amount of B12 than chicken. Studies in Israel indicate a high deficiency of vitamin B12 in adults, especially those who do not eat meat. This deficiency causes anemia, weakness, fatigue, and neurological dysfunction, and can also be a cause of difficulties in regular movements. These levels can be checked with a simple blood test. Vegetarians need to constantly monitor their levels of protein and vitamin B12 in the blood. If indeed a deficiency is found, first add non-fat meat to the diet and menu, two or three times per week at least. There are tablets that dissolve under the tongue to be taken once a day for adults, but they can cause digestion issues, so such tablets may not always be the best solutions to increase levels. It is recommended that you occasionally receive vitamin B12 injections as directed by your family physician based on your blood levels. Also, ask your doctor whether to take B12 alone, or to take a B12 and folic acid combination tablet.

Mussar: Intellect and Belief

Many problems arise when people lack in their belief and are not thinking properly. Some think that they are capable of understanding everything, and what they cannot understand is therefore not possible and not real. A person must realize that he is only flesh and blood and

what he cannot understand can very well exist and be true nonetheless. A wise man knows that he can neither know nor understand everything. He therefore works and toils throughout his entire life to amass whatever little fraction of the vast amounts of knowledge he possibly can in order to know whatever he can about the truth. A parable can provide a little more clarity: a person is riding in a carriage and does not know if he is going in the right direction. It is one thing to not know, but shouldn't he at least stop and figure it out before he continues going possibly further and further in the wrong direction?! We know so little when it comes to the studies of biology, chemistry, physics, and other forms of worldly knowledge. Most live their entire life only knowing a very small fraction of the possible knowledge that they know exists. If so, how true must this be concerning spiritual knowledge that is not readily available to us, and how much spiritual knowledge there must be that we cannot even begin to understand, the likes of which are the pillars of the world. Therefore, we must humbly accept and believe that the Torah and the teachings of our Sages are completely true and not always within our understanding. Even if we may not grasp the understanding, our soul most definitely knows the truth. May Hashem protect us always, Amen.

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

When he was 22 years old, he married his wife Shulamit who was born in Yerushalayim in 1932. While he served as Rav, she stood at his side supporting him with great sacrifice. Her father was R' Chaim Abadi of respectable lineage from Arab Soba Halab, A Talmid Hacham, a Sofer of Tefillin and Mezuzot, and an expert in songs of Halab Mesorah. Her mother was Rabbanit Margalit, sister of Hacham Shalom Lofes of Halab. They had moved to Bnei Brak and established a Kollel Torah v'Chaim, along with R' Moshe Pardo zt"l. He would learn in the Kollel and give a weekly Shiur, and served R' Shimon as Hazzan on Yom Kippur in Yeshivat Porat Yosef. He developed a relationship with R' Shach zt"l, and learning with him as Chavruta every Friday afternoon. In 1973 he was appointed to lead Moetzet Chachmei HaTorah in Bnei Brak, with Gaon R' Meir Mazuz, Gaon R' Shlomo Mahpour, Gaon R' Masoud Ben Shimon who should live and be well, and Gaon R'

Machloul Pachima zt"l. With the establishment of the Shas Party, they joined Hacham Ovadia Yossef and Gaon R' Shalom Cohen zt"l.

Story

In 1910, R' Yaakov Shaul Elyashar was appointed as Rishon LeSion in Yerushalayim. He went to visit the ruler of the Ottoman Empire who ruled over Israel in order to be officially appointed as the Hacham Bashi. They congregated in the Shul of R' Yochanan Ben Zakai. After he was appointed, he was led through the streets by two officers on white horses, with awe and respect from the crowds, while blessing those who came forth. They bowed in deference to their new leader and Hacham.

Laws

- 1** – It is a good custom, beginning from the first day of the month, to read every day the Parasha of the Nasi's donation for the day.
- 2** – There aren't any communal fasts during the month of Nissan. However, it is permitted for an individual to fast on the passing of a father or mother.
- 3** – It is a special Mitzvah for every person, before the start of Pesah, to give charity to the needy so that they should have enough for all their holiday needs.
- 4** – The Shabbat immediately preceding Pesah is called "Shabbat HaGadol", the "Great Shabbat", and on this day, there is a holy obligation upon everyone to gather in Shul to listen to the rabbi discuss the laws and topics pertaining to Pesah.
- 5** – A person that is careful from even the smallest amount of Hametz on Pesah gets help from Heaven to not sin the entire year!
- 6** – Before searching for Hametz on the night before the first Seder, we make a Beracha, even though it is not certain that there is Hametz to be found on the premises.
- 7** – It is forbidden to speak between making the Beracha on searching for the Hametz and the actual searching. Therefore, if the person who made the Beracha spoke before beginning the search for the Hametz about things not pertaining to searching, he must make the Beracha again. However, it is permitted to speak about anything pertaining to the searching once the actual searching has begun. But, one should not speak about things which do not pertain to the searching

once the searching has begun, in order to concentrate and search well. If he did speak about things not pertaining to the search once he already started, he does not make another Beracha.

8 – If a person started searching and did not yet make a Beracha, he can still make a Beracha as long as he has not completed his search. We do not make the Beracha of “*Shehechyanu*” on the search for Hametz. With only that one Beracha on searching for Hametz, it is possible to check many houses, even if the houses are far from each other.

9 – If the head of the household cannot search for Hametz at all, he may appoint an agent in his stead to search for him and only the agent makes the Beracha, not the head of the household.

10 – It is customary to place ten very small pieces of bread individually wrapped in aluminum foil and place them around the house before the person doing the search for Hametz begins. If one of these ten pieces is not found during the course of the search, there is no need to search the premises again until that piece is found and the person can rely on the Bittul Hametz.

11 – The search should be conducted by the light of a wax candle. If one is unavailable, it may be done with a flashlight in which case a Beracha is still recited.

12 – It is necessary to search for Hametz in the holes and cracks in the house, porches, stairs, gardens, buffets, refrigerators, kitchen cabinets, appliances, and under the dressers and beds. Even though this is very bothersome, “*According to the degree of pain is the reward.*” Also, the Shuls and Batei Medrashim must be checked.

13 – It is not necessary to search for unknown Hametz in Sefarim, although the Chazon Ish was very strict to do so.

14 – Both men and women are obligated to recite Birkat Ha’Ilanot, the blessing on the trees. It is preferable to recite it within a group of ten men.

Sponsors

*** **Mr. David Farhi, his wife Suzy, and their children.** Blessings and success for the entire family, Amen. *** **Mrs. Salma Flah and her children.** Blessings 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

Askan Tzibur **Mr. Isaac Esses a”h**, Amen. *** **Mrs. Judy Carr Feld and her husband Donald Carr HaCohen. Yehudit Bat Sarah.** Health and Refuah Shelemah, blessings and success, for the entire family, Amen. ** **Blessed siblings: Yosef, Eli, and Fardosa of the Janani Family.** Blessings and success for the entire family, Leilui Nishmat their father **Hacham Shelomo Ben Hacham Yaakov Janani a”h**, Leilui Nishmat their mother **Sarah Bat Frieda a”h**, and Leilui Nishmat their brother **Jack Chaim Janani a”h**, Amen. *** **Blessed siblings: Azar, David, Charlie, Estella, and Arlit of the Halabi Family.** Blessings and success for the entire family, Leilui Nishmat their sister **Sonia Bat Rachel a”h**, Amen. *** **Blessed siblings: Sammy, Seymour, and Renee of the Esses Family.** Blessings and success for the entire family, Leilui Nishmat their father **Ovadia Ben Rina 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.

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