

Congregation

◆◆◆"Beth Yosef"◆◆◆

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

Rabbi Aharon Farhi

Mr. Eliyahu Levy, President

Parashat Vayakhel Pekude (Hachodesh) Maqam Bayat

Haftarat Ko Amar

25th Adar 5783

Issue #1022

March 18th 2023

*Candle Lighting 6:46pm * Shekiah 7:04pm * Shir Hashirim 6:40pm followed by Mincha Friday Night
Shaharit Shabbat 8:15am * Mincha Shabbat 6:40pm * Shabbat Ends 7:47pm & Rabbenu Tam 8:17pm
Time for Talit 5:53am * Seasonal Hour 7:00 * Alot Hashahar 5:39am * Netz Hachama 7:03am
Weekday Mincha 6:55pm * Earliest Time for Arbit 6:14pm * Tzet Hacoachavim 7:42pm * Chatzot 1:03
Latest Time for Morning Keriat Shema 9:09am * Latest Time for Morning Amidah 10:19am
Time for Talit next week Parashat Vayikra 0:00am*

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

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After being forgiven for the sin of the Golden Calf, the holy Shechinah returned and rested upon Bnei Yisrael when they erected the Mishkan, as commanded in previous Parashiot. The Bet Hamikdash is the heart of the world, where spiritual and physical come together in holiness. Suddenly, the Torah commands regarding observing the holy day of Shabbat. No matter how holy the Mishkan, Shabbat's holiness must be observed. Shabbat is not just a day of rest from work, it is not just a day of prohibition with 39 categories of forbidden work, it is a day of life, the source of all blessing, the one day that directly affects all other days of the week. Our power, our energy, our money and resources, all directly flow forth from the holiness of Shabbat. Health, success, strength, happiness, all are in merit of Shabbat. Just as the Bet Hamikdash combines the spiritual with the physical, to elevate everything, so too Shabbat elevates all days of the week through its merit. We don't have the Bet Hamikdash today, but we will always have Shabbat, a day to celebrate with Hashem's Shechinah resting upon our Shuls and households, to elevate the mundane to holiness. Also in this Parasha, when Bnei Yisrael donated for the Mishkan, Moshe collected the people together, gathered with

one heart, and they all came running together, not one after the other, their hearts and souls fired up with eternal glory, with love of Hashem and a supernatural will to be part of something outstandingly holy, until Moshe had to tell them to stop, that they quickly had enough donations. In this merit they are credited with the building of the holy Mishkan as if they formed it with their own hands. May Hashem watch over us, Amen.

Insights on the Parasha

1 – Moshe said to Bnei Yisrael, "See, Hashem has proclaimed by name, Bezalel, son of Uri son of Hur, of the tribe of Yehuda" This Pasuk hints to the great reward of those who support Torah learning. Bezalel's name can be broken up as *Betzel El*, meaning Hashem will grant the following to those who are *Betzel Hachochmah Betzel HaKesef. Ben Uri* - they will merit the *light* of the Shechinah. *Ben Chur* - they will merit to be *free* from the flames of Gehinam. *Tribe of Yehuda* - the root of Yehuda means to acknowledge, as such people will merit to praise Hashem in the next world. The Pasuk ends by hinting and explaining that such people will likewise be filled with wisdom and understanding in the next world, even though they did not learn Torah in this

world, since they supported Torah learning, and they will be glorified.

2 – These are the reckonings of the Mishkan. Moshe is teaching all those responsible for handling donated funds that they must also be able to proclaim that these are all the funds, exactly what they were used for, and be able to show that all is accountable. Even if someone would be as honest and trustworthy as Moshe Rabbenu, still he must be able to show and proclaim that these are all the funds, clearly, completely, without room for doubt. (*Torat Moshe*)

History in Brief

100 years after the Hurban, 170AD. R' Abba says: After Rebi Shimon Bar Yohai passed away, the house filled with pleasant fragrances. His son R' Elazar picked him up and placed him on the bed. The people of Tzipori wanted to take him for burial in their city, but the people of Meron argued. The bed then ascended on its own with fire and a proclamation rang out that this day will not be one of mourning, but one of joy and happiness, a day of celebration and marriage. The bed then went into the cave in Meron where he is buried to this day. A voice rang out from the cave acclaiming R' Shimon's merit of protection in heaven and on earth from terrible decrees and evil forces. Fortunate is he in the heavens and in this world! He is buried next to R' Yochanan Hasandelar. R' Chiya kissed the ground and cried, "Ground! All our greatest righteous men go buried in the earth! Do not be haughty, do not remove the pillars of the world, R' Shimon will not be swallowed by you!"

Health and Recovery

1- One must trust Hashem completely that everything is for the best. Everything is a decree from heaven. A French philosopher remarked towards the end of his extended lifetime that he regrets ever being grieved or pained during his life because it is all

meaningless when recalculated in retrospect. 2- Smile, be polite, and be gentle, and others will return the kindness. It is free but it results in great value. Distance from causing fear of you and worry in your family, for it can only cause problems. 3- Being content and relaxed is essential to our health. One can be sitting on a comfortable plush couch, living a seemingly luxurious life with many sweet amenities, and yet his soul is greatly agitated and bothered. On the flip side, one can be working arduously and living a simple lifestyle, and yet he is enjoying his life, happy and content. The difference: one must learn how to be satisfied and recognize the goodness of what he has. This can be the difference between health and sickness as well. 4- Thirst for power and honor causes terrible diseases to a person's physical and mental wellbeing. Usually a person simply cannot quench such a thirst, and this leads to serious issues. His heart, blood pressure, respiratory regulation, digestive system, and many other parts of the body are terribly disrupted by this unquenchable thirst. Recognize your place, understand your role, and embrace your personal responsibilities in this lifetime, without regret and with satisfaction and pride.

Mussar: Silence is Golden

One who wishes to be successful in life should watch his tongue from improper use. Distance yourself from speaking about others. Speak about Torah or daily necessities only. Know that most problems that befall people are due to their evil speech. If one would make sure to be careful, he could reach very holy levels. Fortunate are those who calculate their words for they will be rewarded handsomely in the next world while enjoying a comfortable life in the meantime. King Solomon says, *When a person guards his mouth and tongue, he is protecting himself from suffering.* A foolproof plan to be safe from suffering is proper speech. Hashem is everywhere, how then can you speak improperly before Him? How careful

must one be with every word he utters! If one speaks freely without caution, he should realize and be warned that he is pushing Hashem away and will experience a great loss. May Hashem watch over us, Amen.

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

R' Shimon sent his Talmid R' Chaim Harari to Mexico to establish the Yeshiva Keter Torah and a strong community. R' Shimon was appointed to the Moetzet Chachmei HaTorah after his dear colleague passed away, R' Shalom Cohen zt"l last month of Av. This was his daily schedule: he would wake at 6:45am, go to the Bet Midrash on R' Akiva street and pray Shaharit, strict to recite Shema and Amida with the Magen Abraham time, before the later time of the Gra. After breakfast he would learn Gemara until 1:00pm. Then Talmidim would visit to learn, be tested, and hear Mussar and words of Chizuk. He would then pray Minha and return home to eat lunch and rest. While he rested people would come visit and he would speak with them until 4:30pm. He would return to Bet Midrash and learn Mussar Chovot Halevavot for a half hour. He would pray Arbit, return home to learn Torah, and receive the public. The people would come from 8:30pm until midnight. He was strict to recite bedtime Shema before Chatzot, and recite Tikkun Chatzot as well.

Story

On the day that R' Yaakov was appointed as Hacham Bashi, Rishon LeSion in Yerushalayim, he left the home of the ruler of the Ottoman Empire with a handwritten and signed proclamation of his new position, he walked to the old Shul of R' Yochanan Ben Zakai, and was greeted by a great delegation of Rabbanim, including R' Shmuel Salant, the Ashkenaz Rabbi of the city, and the Brisker Rav. He was dressed in the famous Rishon LeSion garb and a special song was sung composed just for him, Yisa Beracha Utehila, using the first letters of his name. Singers and students sang together in beautiful harmony. After he addressed the people with a Derasha, he was escorted to his home by everyone, the sight was impressive and

honorable to Torah. R' Yaakov immediately began his duties as leader. The doors of the ruler were open to R' Yaakov, many stories are told of his greatness in wisdom and Torah knowledge, his large heart, and the help he received from heaven in all his work. This one story we are about to tell over which occurred later in his life is definitely one of the greatest.

Laws: Pesah

- 1** – Women as well are obligated to fulfill the commandment to destroy their Chametz. Therefore, if a man is not destroying it for her, a woman must destroy her Chametz herself and recite in the day of the 14th the Kal Chamira three times only after burning the Chametz.
- 2** – After breakfast on the 14th, brush your teeth very thoroughly, using warm or hot water if and when necessary.
- 3** – Do not buy any type of Chametz after Pesah from anyone except from someone who had sold his Chametz according to the laws explained by the Rabbanim and through their assistance.
- 4** – If one did not sell his Chametz according to the laws explained by the Rabbanim and through their assistance, the Chametz is forbidden to be used for any form of pleasure.
- 5** – One may not even benefit from forbidden Chametz by smelling their fragrance.
- 6** – Chametz that will be left over Pesah must be stored in a safe specific place, especially away from children.
- 7** – Rice is allowed to be eaten on Pesah, provided that one checks through it three times, when children are not around.
- 8** – Chametz that was rendered undistinguishable before Pesah when it was mixed within a ratio of 1/60 may be eaten during Pesah, since it is not considered Chametz to be prohibited on Pesah when even the smallest amount of Chametz is forbidden to consume. However, this applies only when the Chametz had become mixed inadvertently, and only once mixed can the law be so. However, one may not mix the Chametz within a ratio of 1/60 with intention.
- 9** – Makeup and cosmetics are allowed on Pesah because they are not edible.

10 – Electric ovens or electric appliances must first be cleaned well by hand with hot water and cleaning agents, not used for 24 hours, turned on to the maximum, and then left on for one hour.

11 – One who is strict not to use microwaves at all during Pesah will be blessed. Microwaves not used for cooking food, only warming up food, should be cleaned well. One should then place a cup of water, with a cleaning agent in it, into the microwave and let it heat up until the walls of the microwave inside condensate. Food placed within the microwave during Pesah should be wrapped.

12 – One shouldn't purchase medication without a Hashgacha and Kosher symbol stating that it's Kosher for Pesah, because flour may be mixed with salt in the ingredients.

13 – Tea and coffee may be enjoyed during Pesah, but you must make sure you are buying the brands that are Kosher for Pesah even without a Kosher for Pesah symbol. Also, make sure to buy it from a producer who fears sinning and cleans the equipment thoroughly for Pesah.

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