

Congregation

◆◆◆"Beth Yosef"◆◆◆

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

Rabbi Aharon Farhi
Parashat Vayikra
3rd Nissan 5783

Maqam Raast
Issue #1023

Mr. Eliyahu Levy, President
Haftarat Am Zu
March 25th 2023

*Candle Lighting 6:53pm * Shekiah 7:11pm * Shir Hashirim 6:50pm followed by Mincha Friday Night
Shaharit Shabbat 8:15am * Mincha Shabbat 6:35pm * Shabbat Ends 7:55pm & Rabbenu Tam 8:25pm
Time for Talit 5:40am * Seasonal Hour 72:00 * Alot Hashahar 5:26am * Netz Hachama 6:52am
Weekday Mincha 7:00pm * Earliest Time for Arbit 6:20pm * Tzet Hacoachavim 7:50pm * Chatzot 1:01
Latest Time for Morning Keriat Shema 9:02am * Latest Time for Morning Amidah 10:14am*

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

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Please do not read this bulletin during Tefillah or Keriat Hatorah

The Torah instructs that Korbanot, sacrifices, that are brought in the Bet Hamikdash should be from animals such as cattle and sheep. Why are wild animals not brought? First, because such animals as sheep and cattle are located nearby and easily captured, while wild animals are found in forests and distant locations, and are much more difficult to capture. Hashem had mercy on Bnei Yisrael and did not want to trouble them. Second, wild animals are proud, haughty, harm others, and have other negative traits, while a regular animal keeps its head facing downward to the ground, is not proud or haughty, and does not harm others. Therefore, Hashem chose such animals for sacrifice so we should learn from their humility and calm demeanor. Third, because a regular animal is hunted by a wild animal; the ox runs from the lion, the goat runs from the leopard, the sheep runs from the wolf, etc. therefore Hashem wanted sacrifices to come from the hunted, not from the predators, just as our holy nation is compared to a sheep amongst seventy wolves, the seventy nations of the world who hope for our destruction. Hashem is the one who constantly saves us from their hands. The Pasuk says, *When a man among you brings an offering to Hashem.* It is unnecessary to write 'among you' which also means 'from you', teaching that when there is

no Bet Hamikdash, no altar upon which to burn the sacrifice, instead we must sacrifice from ourselves, through fasting and breaking our spirit, in order to repent from our bad deeds. If one is honest with himself, and truly feels bad for the sins he transgressed, he will take action to break himself with Teshuvah so that he will be restored to holiness and greatness. The main function of a sacrifice that bring repentance is the sprinkling of its blood on the altar. Through fasting, our blood is reduced, our fat is reduced, and are sacrificed for Hashem in repentance. When Rav Sheshet would sit in fast, he would pray to Hashem that despite no longer having the opportunity to bring a sacrifice to the Bet Hamikdash, he can instead fast and sacrifice his own fat and blood, as if he has brought a sacrifice on the altar, so that Hashem can accept his prayers and repentance. May Hashem watch over us, Amen.

Insights on the Parasha

1 – The Olah offering is burned on the altar completely, no portion is shared with the Cohanim or the owner. It is therefore called an Olah as it is higher than all other sacrifices. It brings atonement for sins committed with the heart. Rabbenu Bachye explains: the first sacrifice mentioned in the Torah is the Olah,

since it is the first step to any sin, as the thought always precedes the action. The Olah offering can be either a bull, a sheep, or a bird, depending on the financial capacity of the sinner offering the sacrifice for atonement. A rich person is confident in his funds, he is haughty with confidence and sins with more disregard. He therefore offers a bull. An average person is less confident and therefore his sin is less than that committed by a rich person. He brings a sheep. A poor person has no confidence in his own finances, his spirit is usually broken with humility as he possesses nothing by which to be haughty. He therefore offers a bird, the cheapest and simplest of offerings.

History in Brief

120 years after the Hurban, 190AD. After Rebi Shimon Bar Yohai passed away, his close colleague R' Meir, one of sharpest and most learned student of R' Akiva, rose up for our nation. He was a descendant of a Ger Tzedek, a full convert. Who was his fathers? Niron the Roman general, who left from warring with the Jews, converted to Judaism, and merited to have a descendant as great as R' Meir. He was one of the students that R' Akiva had taught in his older years. He also learned from R' Eliezer Hagadol. Not satisfied with only learning the Mishnah from R' Akiva, he then went and learned Gemara from R' Yishmael. R' Meir teaches, if you learn Torah from one Rabbi, do not say that it is enough, do not stop, but do not go learning from many Rabbanim either, rather continue to learn from two more Rabbanim. He also learned from Elisha Ben Abuya, who became a heretic towards the end of his days and left Judaism. About his learning from Elisha Ben Abuya, R' Meir says that he 'ate the substance but threw away the peel'. He also learned from R' Yehoshua Ben Chanania, who received the Torah from a direct chain, mouth to mouth, back to Moshe Rabbenu, until R' Ashi. R' Meir was a Lablar, a Sofer, a scribe. When he came before R'

Yishmael and was asked what his profession was, he explained that he was a Sofer. R' Yishmael said, my son, be careful, because your work is for the sake of heaven, and missing one letter, or adding an extra letter, can invalidate and cause destruction to the whole world!

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 enjoy different flavors. These are the variety of ingredients and flavors that we see written on industrial products and don't understand what they mean. For example, you can make apple juice without having a hint of an apple, and the tongue will taste an apple, so you are actually interfering with creation and tricking your mind while damaging 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: *Obligation of Man*

The purpose of creation is that man fulfills Hashem’s commandments. Without purpose, life is worthless. Without Mitzvot, man is just like an animal. We recite in prayers that man is permitted over animal ‘*Ayin*’, meaning that man has the ability to say ‘*no*’ – *I do not wish to act in such a manner*. Man has the choice to decide between good and bad. One who does not properly take advantage of this choice is therefore categorized as an animal. Also, man is equipped with ‘*Ayin*’ – the three Hebrew letters represent: *Amira* (*speech*) *Yedia* (*understanding*) and *Netina*, characteristics only given to man and not to animals. Once man realizes his purpose, he must fulfill it truthfully with joy and happiness. One who realizes his goals and works hard to achieve them has great reason to rejoice and celebrate. Such happiness is the core of life and the foundation for success. Without happiness, holiness and even the understanding of Torah cannot enter man. Even when man is suffering painfully, he is still obligated to recognize the good in his life and believe with great trust in Hashem that everything done is for the best and will occur in the proper place and time. Always be patient and accept Hashem’s masterplan, as that is our service in this world.

The Japanese Convert

Gilad Keinan grew up in Japan. During his youth he learned through the regular education system. When he was twenty years old, he began thinking more deeply and meaningfully about the world and its foundations. He came to the conclusion that without faith, trust, and belief in Hashem there was no life. He sought out a deity with substance, a religion with real meaning, and after learning through strange types which he distanced from, he eventually discovered Judaism from a Jewish teacher in a university. He had never heard of the Jews. When he studied under this teacher, he noticed that many times he

would include the words Be’ezrat Hashem, or Baruch Hashem. This intrigued him. He asked for more details and was told in brief about Hashem and Emunah. He was overjoyed! Here was a religious man with beliefs that weren’t strange like all the others. For three years he learned about Yahadut, he studied Japanese books on the history of Judaism, and continued to grow in knowledge and fascination.

Gaon R’ Shimon Ba’adani zt”l 1928-2023

He lived in an apartment near the Western Wall, because he believed Mashiach was coming very soon and he wanted to be close to the Bet Hamikdash. He would recite Tikkun Chatzot by the Kotel with tears. Every Thursday he would pray in Yeshivat Porat Yosef with the Rosh Yeshiva Hacham Shalom Cohen zt”l. Ten years ago his grandfather Shalom Aharon Ba’adani z’l was killed, may Hashem avenge his blood, and he accepted the judgment with love. A few times a year he would visit congregations and communities outside of Israel to deliver words of Chizuk and Shiurim on Torah, mainly in Mexico and London.

Story

R’ Yaakov at the age of ninety, his health was good, but his heart and his eyes were weak. One evening a telegram came from the city Noveminsk, under Russia control, from a Rabbi there. They were facing a terrible situation. A few months ago an important member of the government had been murdered. After a thorough investigation, it was decided that a group of five were the culprits and were sentenced to death. Three of the five were Jews, and the witnesses had testified falsely against them, declaring them as murderers. They now faced death as a punishment for the crime they didn’t commit.

Laws: Pesah

1 – The sick and elderly can appoint a messenger to sell their Chametz through the Rabbanim. If one sells another’s Chametz without his knowledge, *Bediavad* (aftermath) it’s a sale; however it is *Lechatechilah* (initially) not a sale unless one first receives permission.

2 – Vessels used for Chametz must be cleaned with boiling water in order to render it fit for use during Pesach. Vessels used over fire require the *Leeboon* koshering process, while *Hagalah* isn't good enough to render it fit for use. Ovens, however, cannot be cleaned with *Leeboon*.

3 – Electric ovens must first be cleaned well by hand, not used for 24 hours, and then turned on to the maximum and left on for one hour.

4 – Chametz that was rendered undistinguishable before Pesach when it was mixed within a ratio of 1/60 may be eaten during Pesach, since it is not considered Chametz to be prohibited on Pesach 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.

5 – Makeup and cosmetics are allowed on Pesach because they are not edible.

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

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

Sponsors

*** **Mr. Albir Yosef Cohen, his wife Mira, and their children.** Blessings and success for the entire family, Refuah Shelemah for all those who need Refuah, Amen. *** Hazzan Askan Tzibur **Mr. Albir Shasho, his wife Kamo, and their children.** Blessings and success for the entire family, Mazal Tov to the bride and groom **Isaac and Sally,** blessings of children, Mabrouk, Amen. *** **Mrs. Rachel Naftali and her husband Alfonso.** Blessings and success for the entire family, blessings of children, Amen. *** **Mr. Eddie Edmon Mizrahi, his wife Sarah, and their children.** Blessings and success for the entire family, Leilui Nishmat his father **Chaim**

Ben Shafika a"h, and Leilui Nishmat his mother **Rachel Bat Salha a"h,** Amen. *** **Mr. Eli Levy, his wife Becky, and their children.** Blessings, health, and success for the entire family, Amen. *** **Mr. Soly Araman, his wife Vicky, and their children.** Blessings and success for the entire family, 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. *** **Mrs. Yafa Septon Levy, her husband Robert, and their children.** Blessings and success for the entire family, Leilui Nishmat her daughter who passed away at a young age **Racheli Bat Yafa a'h,** Amen.

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