

Congregation

◆◆◆"Beth Yosef"◆◆◆

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

Rabbi Aharon Farhi

Parashat Tazria Tahor (Metzora)

1st Iyar 5783

Maqam Saba

Issue #1025

Mr. Eliyahu Levy, President

Haftarat Hashamayim Kisei

April 22nd 2023

*Candle Lighting 7:23pm * Shekiah 7:41pm * Shir Hashirim 7:00pm followed by Minha Friday Night
Shaharit Shabbat 8:15am * Minha Shabbat 7:05pm * Shabbat Ends 8:24pm & Rabbenu Tam 8:54pm
Time for Talit 4:49am * Seasonal Hour 79:00 * Alot Hashahar 4:33am * Netz Hachama 6:08am
Weekday Minha 7:30pm * Earliest Time for Arbit 6:40pm * Tzet Hacoachavim 8:19pm * Chatzot 12:54
Latest Time for Morning Keriat Shema 8:30am * Latest Time for Morning Amidah 9:49am*

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Please do not read this bulletin during Tefillah or Keriat Hatorah

Most of this week's double Parasha reading discusses the topic of the Tzaraat infliction, a punishment for speaking Lashon Hara, words of slander, against another person. Our Sages of blessed memory explain that the word *Metzora* is composed of the three words *Motzi Shem Ra*, defaming another's name. The Torah commands against transgressing this sin, and follows shortly after with the episode of Miriam, who spoke Lashon Hara regarding her brother Moshe. The close proximity teaches us the warning and the punishment. Some explain that punishment can also befall one who is not pleasant or generous to another with their eyes. Rashi explains this to mean that he does not lend to another who wishes to borrow, he does not invite or entertain guests, or he is basically selfish. He is only looking with his eyes at himself – he is his only concern. Tana Debe Yishmael explains this the same way. A story is told about Rabi Chaim who took Rabi Avraham as a son in law to marry his daughter because he was a generous and thoughtful person. A Torah Scholar must be considerate of others, caring and compassionate, along with the amount of Torah he has learned. If he hears an insight on Torah from his colleague, he should not resent the fact that he did not think of it himself and try to disprove the insight. Rather he should be joyous with his friend's accomplishment and try to bring proofs to his insight. Even if he does not fully agree with the point of view, he should thank him for sharing and always be respectful. That is one example of looking at others with positive eyes. One who

speaks Lashon Hara transgresses both a negative commandment not to do so and a positive commandment to remember what happened to Miriam, just like there is a positive commandment to remember the holy day of Shabbat. The Rambam explains that one inflicted with Tzaraat is sent out of the neighborhood, out of the camp, and must remain in solitude without human interaction. This will train him to better monitor and limit his speech with others. We also do not want him to teach others to follow in his ways, or catch his contagious behavior. The Torah explains that the punishment of the Tzaraat infliction first hits his house, then his vessels and utensils, then his clothing, and then finally his body, all in progression if he does not get the hint and resolve to repent for his slanderous speech and improve how he interacts with others. May Hashem watch over us, Amen.

Insights on the Parasha

1 – Why does a woman become impure for a number of days after she gives birth? Because while she was pregnant with a soul in her body, the holy Shechinah of Hashem was with her, protecting the baby in her womb. When she gives birth and releases the holy soul into the world, the holy Shechinah guards its departure and leaves the woman. When a soul leaves a body, such as when a person passes away and his soul leaves, and whenever the holy Shechinah leaves, impurity then sets in for a number of days as a result in place of the holiness that left.

History in Brief

120 years after the Hurban, 190AD. After Rebi Shimon Bar Yohai passed away, his close colleague R' Meir Baal Hanes, one of the sharpest and most learned among the students of R' Akiva, rose up to enlighten the eyes of the Hachamim and our nation. He was a descendant of a Ger Tzedek, a full convert, 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. He then went and learned from R' Yishmael. R' Meir teaches, if you learn Torah from one Rabbi, do not say that it is enough, 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, He was an expert Sofer, a scribe. Once during Purim he came to a town that did not have a Megillah, so he wrote a Megillah by heart and read it for the congregation. R' Meir would say: A father should teach his son a trade in order to be able to support himself respectfully, and pray to Hashem for mercy. R' Meir was a Chassid, a light unto the world, whose beauty would shine forth and lighten the whole house. He would say: teach your students in a short, easy, and simplified fashion. Ravina would say: witnessing R' Meir teaching was like seeing mountains uprooted and ground up through his sharpness in Torah. Rabbenu Hakadosh would say: I have acquired sharpness over my colleagues because I would view R' Meir teaching from behind, but if I would have been able to view him from in front, then I would have been even sharper. During the days of Rabbenu Hakadosh, the Hachamim wanted to excommunicate. Rabbenu Hakadosh stood before them and said, he would listen to each of them, but if they did not fully understand and know the laws of excommunication completely, then they could not do anything.

Health and Recovery

1- Everyone's digestive tract is different and functions differently. **2-** Do not chase after good

tasting food which is harmful for you. **3-** Soft foods such as cereals and soups are able to be digested quickly, and their nutrients enter the blood easily. They are then quick to move to any part of the body where they can provide quality nourishment. **4-** Cleaner blood generally services the organs on the right side of the body, while the less pure blood services the organs on the left side of the body. **5-** Excessive sweating is a sign of weakness in the body. **6-** Sweat is salty. When one is sick, the sweat becomes more salty, just as the taste of saliva in the mouth changes depending on the sickness. **7-** The persistence of worrying melts the fat in the body and dries the meat. **8-** Enjoying delicacies often decreases the quality of body's blood. **9-** The following activities causes weakness to the body and a plurality of diseases: the pursuit of women - unrestrained avarice – constant demand of power and authority - being envious of others – one who troubles his mind with thoughts of why others are getting rich while he isn't, why others are happy while he isn't; such thoughts are constantly causing restlessness to the mind, which weakens the body and begins causing a number of diseases.

Mussar: Seclusion with Hashem

Seclusion is a very important trait that is greater than the rest. Seclusion means to devote and dedicate a special frame of time to privately speak with Hashem to thank Him, praise Him, and ask from Hashem what you need. Speaking with Hashem should be done privately where nobody sees and one should ask Hashem to help him come closer to Him and serve Him better, in the best and optimal way. This conversation with Hashem could be conducted in any language and should express whatever is in your heart, whether it is regret or repentance for the past, or the intentions to be closer to Hashem from that point on. Every person should come closer to Hashem using the tools Hashem has given him, each on his own level. The key is consistency – every day one should make an effort to draw closer, as this will also make the day into a happier one. Even if a person can only speak about one thing with Hashem, that is also a great thing. He should be strong and steadfast, and he should try to do this a few times during the day. The added result: you will see success and salvation in your life and with

your family and kids. These conversations with Hashem help void evil decrees without even knowing about their possibilities. A person must know: a Jewish man's sword is his prayer, as this is the connection between Hashem and man. If you see a change in your daily life, don't say it's a coincidence; rather be a devout believer that it's all from Hashem. Ask from Hashem that you shouldn't be put to test, that you should not experience disgrace due to the Yetzer Hara's strong and sharp strategies against man. Who can withstand them? Pray to Hashem so that He will help and save you from the Yetzer Hara. May Hashem watch over us, Amen.

The Japanese Convert

Gilad Keinan grew up in Japan. He had never heard of the Jews. When he studied in university, he was exposed a little to Judaism. He asked for more details and was told in brief about Hashem and Emunah. He was overjoyed! Here was a religion with beliefs that weren't strange like all the others. He learned about Yahadut, studying Japanese books on the history of Judaism, and continued to grow in knowledge and fascination. He purchased many books that discussed and described Jewish laws and customs, and studied at length for eighteen months. He then came upon a quote from the Talmud that stated *if a non-Jew wished to convert to Judaism, then he should be discouraged from doing so, on the other hand if a Jew wished to leave Judaism for a different religion or deity then that was impossible and no matter what he did he would always be Jewish until the end of his days*. He told himself that this must be the truth! All other religions try their hardest to recruit new members, no matter their origins, while the Jews were not interested in just growing their numbers. He approached many Jews and was always told the same thing, that conversion to Judaism was not simple or easy. One person told him that if his heart was truly dedicated to converting to Judaism, then he should move to Israel. While in Israel, he approached many until he was finally given the opportunity to begin the process of conversion. After three hard years he finally achieved his dream and became a Jew. He married a Jewish woman and they were blessed with a son. It was then that he received his Jewish name, Gilad Keinan. When his son was a year old, he moved back to his parents in Japan, and placed Mezuzot on the doors of their home. When a terrible earthquake caused damage to his city and all his neighbors, only his home remained untouched, undamaged. He knew that they were saved in the

merit of his Mezuzot! He decided to move back to Israel. His parents gave him money to buy a home, his relationship with them was stronger than ever. When it was time to celebrate the Bar Mitzvah of their son, his parents traveled to Israel to celebrate with them and enjoy seeing their six Jewish grandchildren. They recognized Hashem's greatness and thanked Hashem for their son's recognition of truth in the world, to draw closer to Hashem, learn Torah, and fulfill Mitzvot, Amen.

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

Towards the end of his life, he was admitted into the hospital with deteriorating health. They added the name Rephael for him, while the world of Jewry prayed for his recovery, until the time came for his holy soul to return to heaven. Many attended his Levaya as he was taken from his Bet Midrash "Torah V'Chaim" on R' Akiva Street to the Ponevezh Bet HaChaim, where he was buried next to his Rabbani. The great scholars of our generation eulogized him, including Rishon LeSion Hacham Yitzchak Yosef, his student R' Mayer Maya, R' Shlomo Ben Shimon, R' Shmuel Betzalel Rosh Yeshiva Porat Yosef, R' Nissim Ben Shimon, HaGaon R' Shlomo Amar, R' Masoud Ben Shimon, his student R' Yosef Yazdi, and R' Reuven Elbaz who said: we have not yet recovered from the great loss of Hacham Ovadia Yosef and R' Shalom Cohen, and now we are mourning a third great loss, our great shepherds who guided our people to truth. They all testified the same: R' Shimon Ba'adani was a great Tzaddik who merited the people, taught Torah to many students, and left behind generations of righteousness, children and grandchildren who continue in his ways. May his merit protect us, Amen.

Laws

- 1** – The custom is not to get a haircut during Sefirat Ha'omer until the morning of the 34th day. There are those who are careful not to shave either.
- 2** – One who experiences discomfort from not shaving may shave every Friday in honor of Shabbat.
- 3** – If a Brit Milah is celebrated during the Omer, the father, Sandak, and Mohel may shave and get a haircut, even the day before, close to the evening.
- 4** – We are careful not to wear new garments that require the recitation of Shehechyanu. However, when need be, one may wear and recite during Shabbat, during a Brit, or during a Bar Mitzvah
- 5** – One may recite Shehechyanu on a new fruit even during the weekday.

6 – Some do not have new garments tailored or made during the Omer. However, for a bride and groom one may be lenient.

7 – One may move into a new residence during the Omer and may even plaster and paint wherever necessary. Shehechyanu may be recited as well with a new garment or new fruit. However, one may not listen to music, even via the radio, until the 34th day.

8 – Women do not count the Omer, even without a blessing.

9 – One may train a youngster to count the Omer each day even with a blessing and may continue with a blessing even if the youngster missed a day.

10 – If one becomes 13 years old and a day during the Omer, even if he recited every day with a blessing properly until that point, he mustn't continue with a blessing and should count each day from then on after hearing someone else recite the blessing.

11 – In New York one may count after Tzet Hacoachavim (37 minutes after Shekiah). However, in Shul after Arbit they may count immediately after Shekiah. A blessing may not be said before Shekiah.

12 – One who forgot to count at night with a blessing but counts in the day without a blessing may continue with a blessing the following night.

Sponsors

*** **Mr. Farah Hamra, his wife Dina, and their children.** Blessings and success for the entire family, Mazal Tov to their daughter and her husband **Yitzhak and Berta** on the birth of a son **Asher**, Mabrouk, Amen. *** **Mr. Shlomo Albakdadi, his wife Linda, their parents, and their children.** Blessings and success for the entire family, Mazal Tov to **Yitzhak and Berta** on the birth of a son **Asher**, Mabrouk, Amen. *** **Mr. Victor Emil Kamo, his wife Mireill, their parents, and their children.** Blessings and success for the entire family, Amen. *** **Mrs. Sarin Sabbagh and her children.** Blessings and success for the entire family, Leilui Nishmat **Shemuel Sabbagh HaLevi Ben Rina a"h**, Amen. *** **Mr. Nissim Kassab HaCohen, his wife Maggie, and their children.** Blessings and success for the entire family, Leilui Nishmat his mother **Odette Bat Sofia a"h**, Amen. *** **Mrs. Louza Anbie, her husband Eli Sakal, and their children.** Blessings and success for the

entire family, Leilui Nishmat her mother **Eva Aysha Bat Liza a"h**, Amen. *** **Mr. Soli Araman, his wife Vicky, and their children.** Blessings and success for the entire family, Leilui Nishmat his mother **Rachel Bat Zahie a"h**, Amen. *** **Hamashgiach Harav Mayer Tuvia, his wife Malka, and their children.** Blessings and success for the entire family, Refuah Shelemah, Amen. *** **Mrs. Mimi Zarif, her husband Eli, her siblings Isaac and Rose, and their children.** Blessings and success for the entire family, Leilui Nishmat their father and siblings, **Moshe Jajati Ben Garaz a"h**, Leilui Nishmat **Victor, Edmon, and Grace children of Linda a"h**, and Leilui Nishmat **Linda Bat Milo 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. *** **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. *** **The Bawabe Family, Kita and her siblings.** Blessings and success for the entire family, Leilui Nishmat their mother **Simcha Bat Mazal a"h**, Amen.

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