

Congregation

◆◆◆"Beth Yosef"◆◆◆

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

**Rabbi Aharon Farhi**

**Parashat Acharei Mot Kedoshim**    *Maqam Hijaz*  
8<sup>th</sup> Iyar 5783                      Issue #1026

**Mr. Eliyahu Levy, President**

**Haftarat Vayhi Devar**  
April 29<sup>th</sup> 2023

*Candle Lighting 7:30pm \* Shekiah 7:48pm \* Shir Hashirim 7:00pm followed by Minha Friday Night  
Shaharit Shabbat 8:15am \* Minha Shabbat 7:15pm \* Shabbat Ends 8:31pm & Rabbenu Tam 9:01pm  
Time for Talit 4:38am \* Seasonal Hour 8:00 \* Alot Hashahar 4:22am \* Netz Hachama 5:58am  
Weekday Minha 7:30pm \* Earliest Time for Arbit 6:46pm \* Tzet Hacoachavim 8:26pm \* Chatzot 12:53  
Latest Time for Morning Keriat Shema 8:22am \* Latest Time for Morning Amidah 9:42am*

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

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**2415 Ocean Parkway, Brooklyn NY 11235**

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***Parashat Achare Mot***

During Yom Kippur, the Cohen Gadol uses a goat to atone for the sins of the nation. What is the service performed with the goat? First, the Cohen Gadol recites Viduy upon the head of the goat and declares it as the *Sa'ir Hamishtale'ach*. This goat will atone for all of the sins performed by our nation, on condition that they do Teshuvah properly. *Place them upon the head of the He-Goat* – The sins aren't actually placed upon the head of the goat. Rather, Hashem is assuring us that if the Cohen performs this service properly, then the sins will be removed from the people and will be considered as if they are placed elsewhere, where they will no longer be remembered. The Siftei Cohen writes: When a sin is committed, a prosecuting angel is created. With the power of Hashem's name, the Cohen Gadol through the Viduy ties up all of these prosecutors of our nation and places them upon the head of the goat. This goat now becomes very heavy and hard to move. The designated man then takes the goat to the desert after Viduy. He has been designated from the previous day for this task and is ready for the service. Even if it is Shabbat, and even if this designated individual has become impure, he still enters the Mikdash and takes the goat, and even lifts the goat, places it upon his shoulders, and carries it through the public domain. This individual must be an expert with directions and must know the roads and paths well. Everyone according to Halacha can be designated for this, but it is preferable that a Cohen be designated for

this task. The designated man was also one who would not live throughout the following year – through Ruach Hakodesh the Cohen Gadol was able to designate such an individual. The reason it is preferable that a Cohen should be used is so that people do not instigate that the Cohanim only take all the good things for themselves (Tithes, Terumah, etc.) – therefore they are designated for this task as well. May Hashem merit us and protect us, Amen.

***Parashat Kedoshim***

The second Parasha we read this week, Kedoshim, commands and warns: *You shall not be a gossipmonger among your people*. In this Pasuk the Torah is warning us not to speak Lashon Hara about others. Our Sages teach us: some sins are offensive to heaven and some are offensive to people. Lashon Hara is a sin that is offensive to both those in heaven and those on earth, as it says in Tehillim: *They set their mouth against heaven, and their tongue struts on earth*. People, who are compared to a ladder that is set earthward whose top reaches heavenward, are composed of a body and a soul, as it says, *Hashem formed the man of dust from the ground, and He blew into his nostrils the soul of life*. The ladder's base which is stationed on earth symbolizes the body of a person, while the top of the ladder which reaches heavenward symbolizes the soul. *The angels of Hashem were ascending and descending it*. Hashem graces us with blessings and success which descends through people from the world of

the angels above. However, the connection must first be made by the person in order to receive the blessings. The truth is that the type of influence we receive from above could be good or bad, depending on our actions that establish the connection. Our Sages teach us: every time we do an action, an angel is created. Once we perform an action and create an angel, we have now established the connection between heaven and earth and can receive the influence. *The angels of Hashem were ascending and descending* – first ascending to establish the connection, then descending to bring the influence. The *Gra* says: every word of Torah we learn creates the type of angel that bestows upon us many blessings. The Torah we learn ascends up to the source of our souls and descends upon us to bless our bodies as well. One who speaks Lashon Hara sins terribly and causes much destruction in heaven and on earth. Whenever one speaks against a friend, a congregation, a family member, or any part or group of our nation, he creates a prosecuting angel who causes destruction above and then descends and causes more destruction on earth. Therefore, the Torah warns us not to speak Lashon Hara. May Hashem watch over us, Amen.

#### ***Insights on the Parasha***

We are commanded in the Torah with a positive biblical commandment to cover the blood of a beast or bird; however, we are not commanded to cover the blood of an animal. The Pasuk explains that the blood is the soul, it is the essence of a living creature, and it must therefore be covered, especially before eating from the meat of the creature. Nonetheless, since we use animals for sacrifices, which include procedures within the sacrifice that require the blood of the animal to be used as an atonement and the blood is not covered, the Torah did not wish to differentiate between an animal for sacrifice and an animal used for consumption, and therefore never requires the blood of an animal to be covered. However, the blood of the beast and bird must be covered.

#### ***Insights on Pirkei Avot***

*“Rebi Shimon says: Three people who have eaten together but do not recite Divre Torah are considered to be sacrificing for the dead”* – This is written to express that one should only speak Divre Torah, or in fact anything, only after he has stopped chewing and eating, so as to prevent the risk of choking. There are three partners in creating a

person: Hashem, the father, and the mother. When three people eat together, in order to sustain their body and soul, and are only involved in the eating, which is symbolic of the father and mother, but do not include Divre Torah, food for the soul, symbolic of Hashem's role in creating man, then life cannot be sustained.

#### ***History in Brief***

*130 years after the Hurban, 200AD.* Even though R' Meir had a different Halachic opinion than his colleagues on many topics, he still nonetheless took their opinions in consideration. For example, his student R' Shimon Ben Elazar comments, one Shabbat R' Meir had an ailment in his stomach that required using wine and oil in a way that could alleviate his pain, but because his rabbinical colleagues were of the opinion that doing so would violate the sanctity of Shabbat, he refrained from doing so, even though he personally was of the opinion that it was permissible, out of respect for his colleagues. What he would be strict on for himself, he would allow others to be lenient. He would teach that one should always chew his food very well before swallowing, and then take a leisure walk after eating, in order to live a healthy life. R' Yossi Ben Chalafta would say about R' Meir: he was a great holy and humble man! His student R' Shimon Ben Elazar would say: when I held just the walking stick of R' Meir, I would learn logic and understanding. Even his possessions were holy! R' Meir learned mostly from his Rebbe R' Akiva, who appointed him as Rosh Yeshiva, and he was the greatest of his students in years and wisdom. Our Sages teach us: an anonymous Mishna is actually the words of R' Meir. Also, whenever it quotes that Acherim ‘others say’ it is actually R' Meir's learning from Elisha Ben Avuya who is called Acher, other. Once, R' Meir sent a student to bring wine from a Cuthite. Eliyahu Hanavi came to tell him that it is forbidden to drink wine from a Cuthite, because they serve an idol image that was placed on Har Gerizim.

#### ***Health and Recovery***

Smoking is the number one cause of Emphysema, and the most preventable if the smoker just quits. Emphysema is a condition that involves damage to the walls of the air sacs (alveoli) of the lungs. Alveoli are small, thin-walled, very fragile air sacs located in clusters at the end of the bronchial tubes deep inside the lungs. There are about 300 million alveoli in normal lungs. As you breathe in air, the alveoli

stretch, drawing oxygen in and transporting it to the blood. When you exhale, the alveoli shrink, forcing carbon dioxide out of the body. When emphysema develops, the alveoli and lung tissue are destroyed. With this damage, the alveoli cannot support the bronchial tubes. The tubes collapse and cause an "obstruction" (a blockage), which traps air inside the lungs. Because there are fewer alveoli, less oxygen will be able to move into the bloodstream. Doctors refer to a person with this sickness as someone who is dead while alive, because he is actually healthy besides for the fact that he has great difficulty breathing. The great Rabbanim of previous generations have spoken out against smoking, and we too join them, as too many are addicted already, and we must save those who are young and do not understand the dangers they are allowing themselves to fall prey to, especially before they are addicted. Our Torah commands us to guard our health in order to serve Hashem. Smoking is directly against the Torah, and causes terrible damage to our health. The doctors all agree that smoking will cause sicknesses and diseases that can be deadly over time, and completely preventable by simply not smoking. Everyone agrees that smoking is unhealthy, damaging, unnecessary, and addicting.

#### ***Mussar: Ungratefulness***

The Pasuk states that one who returns bad to others who had been good to him will not be able to rid his domain of bad. Everyone must train themselves to appreciate what others have done for them, and must never forget their kindness. Even if he has also caused you grief in the past, you must nonetheless remember the good and forget the bad. Man must emulate the ways of Hashem. Hashem overlooks our sins, such as the sin of the Golden Calf, and remembers our correct actions, such as accepting the Torah. Let us learn from Moshe Rabbenu, who did not hit the river or the earth since they had saved him from harm and possibly death, and he showed appreciation. He also did not battle Median because he had grown up with them. Our Sages teach us that a person is obligated to respect even someone who had merely opened the door for him even more than he is obligated to respect his own parents. Eliyahu Hanavi and Elisha Hanavi did not resurrect their parents, but they resurrected others whom they felt indebted to

because of the kindness they received from them. If such is the obligation upon receiving bread, how much so is the obligation to show gratitude when assisted spiritually or physically in ways that saves from terrible harm and danger. If you do not honor or recognize your benefactor with gratitude, then you are ungrateful. Let us now ponder for a moment: how grateful must we be to Hashem who grants us countless goodness and constantly shows us outstanding kindness. We are indebted and therefore obligated to fulfill His every command, otherwise we are proven to be hopelessly ungrateful. May Hashem watch over us, Amen.

#### ***Holocaust Remembrance Day***

About 80 years ago, from 1939-1945, the Nazis launched their campaign for the "Final Solution" - a plan to rid the world of every last Jew. These were terribly dark years of hatred and suffering for our nation, unlike anything experienced in history. Millions of Jews were murdered and slaughtered in the worst ways imaginable, men women and children, young and old, with no regard for human life. Entire communities were decimated to ashes and dust. A woman once asked the Lubavitcher Rebbe before Pesah if she can add an empty chair to her Seder table, to teach her children an important lesson, in memory of the Jews who were not seated at the table because they were killed during the Holocaust. The Lubavitcher Rebbe responded that instead of adding an empty seat, she should add a seat and invite a fellow Jew to the Seder. Hitler, may his name be destroyed, wanted the seats to be empty, void of Jews. To properly counter his intentions, we should instead fill the seats with Jews who will experience the holy holiday with us, who will be uplifted, inspired and draw closer to Hashem as part of our holy nation with pride and freedom, to learn Torah and fulfill the Mitzvot, that is the greatest victory of all! One Rebbe that survived the Holocaust commented an amazing point that he experienced during imprisonment in the camps: while standing side by side amongst his captured brethren, each not knowing if that would be their last day on this earth, they huddled together to keep warm and to give each other support, without concern for their background customs or traditions, no care which congregation they had been affiliated with, no prejudice for anything, just together as Jewish

brethren trying to survive and spend their remaining time on this world serving Hashem in any way possible, nobody even knowing that he was a Rebbe that had led so many Chassidim, everyone was equal and important, that unity and bond was the greatest feeling in the world!

### **Rishon LeSion:**

#### ***R' Yaakov Shaul Elyashar 1817-1906***

In 1899, news came to Jerusalem that Wilhelm the leader in Germany was planning a visit to their community. They prepared the city in his honor with a warm and respectable welcome. On the 13<sup>th</sup> of Heshvan, he arrived at the gates of their city on a white horse, followed by dignitaries, ministers, and officers. The community prayed early Vatikin that Shabbat to be available to greet the leader and recite the blessing that Hashem gives honor to the leaders of flesh and blood. The two rabbinical authorities of Jerusalem, R' Elyashar and R' Shmuel Salant, greeted the leader while holding Torah Scrolls in their hands. He was very pleased to be received with such warmth and honor, as his father had been thirty years earlier. That Shabbat afternoon they enjoyed a celebratory banquet in his honor. The leader honored R' Yaakov by gifting him with a special cigar, and R' Yaakov did not know what to do, as it was Shabbat and he could not smoke it. He was faced with a big challenge.

### **Laws: Hagomel**

**1** – Traveling by plane from city to city, or country to country, for a flight of at least 72 minutes, requires the recitation of Hagomel with Shem and Malchut, as a flight is categorized as traveling through the desert.

**2** – Recovering from a bedridden sickness after even only one day, even if it was not life threatening, even if it was only high fever that drained your energy and confined you to the bed, obligates the recitation of Hagomel.

**3** – After one heals and recovers from surgery, one must recite Hagomel, because complications are possible during any surgery.

**4** – If the surgery was successful and the doctor is happy with the healing results, Hagomel is recited, even though the body is still at risk. However, if the person did not yet heal, and he has nonetheless left his house to pray in Shul, but is still considered sick, then he does not recite Hagomel.

### **Sponsors**

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\*\*\* **Mr. Alphonse Kabani, his wife Golda, and their children.** Blessings and success for the entire family, Amen. \*\*\* **Mr. Aslan Zayat, his wife Frieda, and their children.** Blessings and success for the entire family, Amen. \*\*\* **Mr. Ted Levy, his wife Celia, and their children.** Blessings and success for the entire family, Leilui Nishmat his father **Eliyahu Ben Simcha 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. \*\*\* **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.

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