

Congregation

◆◆◆"Beth Yosef"◆◆◆

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

Rabbi Aharon Farhi

Parashat Vayishlah

19th Kislev 5784

Maqam Saba

Issue #1051

Mr. Eliyahu Levy, President

Haftarat Hazon Ovadia

December 2nd 2023

*Candle Lighting 4:11pm * Shekiah 4:29pm * Shir Hashirim 4:05pm followed by Mincha Friday Night
Shaharit Shabbat 8:15am * Mincha Shabbat 3:55pm * Shabbat Ends 5:11pm & Rabbenu Tam 5:41pm
Time for Talit 6:05am * Seasonal Hour 56 * Alot Hashahar 5:54am * Netz Hachama 7:01am
Weekday Mincha 4:10pm * Earliest Time for Arbit 3:56pm * Tzet Hacoachavim 5:06pm * Chatzot 11:45
Latest Time for Morning Keriat Shema 8:42am * Latest Time for Morning Amidah 9:38am*

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Please do not read this bulletin during Tefillah or Keriat Hatorah

In this week's Parasha, Yaakov Avinu began his return to Israel after being away for twenty years, and prepares to come face to face with his brother Esav. They are now two fully grown and established adults, aged brothers, one wicked, one pure. He approaches the border of Israel with his many wives and children and all his possessions and money. However, anxiety fills his heart instead of joy. Yaakov knows that Esav is still angry, and that he still dreams of revenge because of the blessings that he received instead of him. Yaakov thought without a doubt that Esav would be waiting for him near the border in order to settle old accounts with his brother Yaakov. As the time of confrontation approached, Yaakov prepared himself with prayer, military strategy, and gifts of appeasement, thoroughly entertaining all possible outcomes. Now they are facing each other. Esav draws close and embraces Yaakov with hugs and kisses. Seemingly the walls of hatred have fallen, and the battle cry of war is no more. However, this is dishonesty at its best. Esav is trying to manipulate Yaakov into a false state of calm and relaxation, so that he would trust Esav and follow his older brother's lead. There are times when we are in danger but we just don't know it because we are so blinded by a false sense of calm. We relax and lay down our guard. Esav wanted Yaakov to release his worry and just enjoy following in Esav's steps, to do as Esav does, to sin and corrupt, which would be a path to ruin and destruction. We are still today, and all throughout history, battling Esav and his evil influences as we are the

descendants of Yaakov. Esav hates Yaakov – this has never changed, and will never change. No matter how things may seem, we must never forget this. Yaakov's nervous tension was not to be denied, as he had been suddenly hit on the eve of this meeting by an attack from a mysterious being, who attacked him suddenly in middle of the night. On that night, this terrible fate occurred when "Yaakov was alone, and a man wrestled with him until dawn". This fight is renewed upon us constantly to this very day. The Pasuk tells us that Yaakov was alone and subjected to be forced to fight - at home and abroad - with protest, to obscure the identity and uniqueness that transfers him from the world, despite his desire for peace and quiet, desire for only but a little bit of rest. That night Yaakov was left alone without any material support, without his family, without his sons. No army, no military force or protection. The unit had already moved beyond. He was left with only his spiritual strength and confidence in Hashem. Only these forces stood firmly against the "man" which was actually the ministering angel of Esav, who attacked and fought with full rage against everything that symbolizes the essence of Yaakov. But the angel understood that "he could not overcome" and therefore left Yaakov in the world. He even hit a terrible blow to his thigh, an important area that controls the tibia, in which steadfastness and walking depends upon, and still could not win the fight to overthrow Yaakov and slip him under his feet to the ground, at night when Yaakov is the most vulnerable. He was deprived

and denied of symbolic historical success. Nonetheless, Yaakov is really hurt through the hit which made him lame, but he still lives on, still goes strong until dawn, as daylight causes attacks to cease and the angel begs of him to “send me away”. At that moment Yaakov refused to oblige to the angel’s request, and instead attacked, even though he was tired, lame, yet he was not ready to end the terrible affair. He will not send him away without first receiving blessings from him. Victory must be decisive. What is the blessing? That he would no longer be called Yaakov, but rather he would possess the name Yisrael, becoming as a powerful minister amongst the nations. Such is the nation of Israel, after thousands of years of brutality, slaughter, and destruction, the nations of the world are baffled at the sight of such a little tribe, impoverished, lacking for generations the means of support, while despite it all still able to hold their own, even while lame in face of the forces of nature, the forces of evil, and the laws of history. Blow after blow, we endure and continue, and continue to grow. Terrible kingdoms have tried to pass vicious decrees, while Israel keeps His Word and their faith. From poverty and a life of bitterness, and after enduring terrible sufferings, Israel remains with a crown upon the head, where Hashem protects on their behalf, through the ages Jews declare, our hope is for Hashem! May Hashem continue to watch over us always, Amen.

Insights on the Parasha

The messengers of Yaakov explained to Esav that the gifts were being sent *coming to* Yaakov. The Pasuk should have written that they were coming *‘from’* Yaakov, not *‘to’* Yaakov? R’ Yehuda Asad explains: This Pasuk is teaching us that all these gifts given to Esav would actually one day be returned to Yaakov with the coming of Mashiach.

History in Brief

130 years after the Hurban, 200AD. The queen once asked R’ Yossi, how long did it take Hashem to create the world, and he explained it took six days. She asked, what has Hashem been doing all this time since then? He explained that Hashem makes marriage matches, the daughter of this person to this man. Hashem also declares that the money of this person goes to that person. The queen thought that this was an easy and simple job

that even she can do in the course of only one night. What did she do? She brought in one hundred slaves and one hundred maidservants and placed them all in rooms as couples to be married. The next day, she saw that each couple was experiencing fights and arguments. She asked each couple what was wrong, and each had another reason why they did not want to marry their designated partner. The queen then admitted to R’ Yossi that Hashem is great and the Torah is true. R’ Yossi would say, Hashem created the world and commanded the people to do acts of kindness with each other and fulfill the will of Hashem. They do not see Hashem, but Hashem sees them, and after they pass away from this world, they are judged in heaven, where all the kindness they have shown to others and all the Torah and Mitzvot that they have accomplished will accompany them to Gan Eden, while their sins and the damages done to others will accompany them to Gehinam.

Health and Recovery

There are people who after having just finished a full meal still feel hungry. What is the reason? Researchers looked into the matter to measure the amount of time the brain needs in order to be informed that food has entered the stomach, to know that it is actually full and no longer needs nourishment. It is known that the brain receives information from various organs of the body through the nerve system. In response, the brain sends out commands, as well as feelings of hunger and satiety. When the person becomes satisfied, it is only after twenty minutes from when food enters the stomach that the brain receives the knowledge and sends the feelings that food has sufficiently filled the stomach. When one sits down to eat, he must take into account that everything he eats in the first twenty minutes of eating does not affect his mind regarding his feelings of hunger and he does not yet understand the effect of the food that has already entered his body. People in the world who understand the culture of eating work with this information by only eating light dishes and appetizers at the beginning of a meal, such as fruits and salad. After twenty minutes, only then do they start the main course of the meal. This is indeed the eating process according to the Rambam's opinion - to first eat lightly in order to begin the digestion process, and in this way, after the brain

has received knowledge that it has food in the stomach, the rest of the meal continues reasonably without the feelings of hunger. If a person still feels hungry, it is recommended to put something in his mouth that requires a lot of chewing, such as a piece of raw carrot, and to chew it well, so that the stomach will receive the saliva that it is lacking, and thereby relax from the feelings of hunger.

Mussar: Nervousness, Anxiety, Depression

These are terrible characteristics that can be much worse than regular diseases. They can actually cause serious diseases as well. These characteristics destroy one's life completely and make everything seem very bitter. Such a character brings upon himself feelings of tremendous discomfort. There is no difference between day or night; there is only pain. Everyone must work hard on their character in order to uproot every bit of these from their system. This shall prove beneficial for both the spiritual and physical being. His health will miraculously start to improve. He will merit a long life of happiness and goodness. His life will seem *on-track*, as success on this world is given to those who are calm and patient. Everyone has problems and difficulties in life when things do not seem to go as planned. What makes one person different than the next is the way he accepts the hardships and deals with them. If one has problems with his wife, his children, his business, or his health, these problems can completely destroy you! However, one who has a little bit of logic should realize how important it is to be calm and patient, and never become nervous or angry. One should pause and speak to Hashem, asking Him for help and success. Tell Him your problems and form a healthy bond that will lead you to happiness. Be faithful and trusting in Hashem, and never get nervous and angry, especially over things that are really anyway not worth the pain. May Hashem watch over us, Amen.

Rishon LeSion: The Humble Gaon Hacham Yaakov Attieh 1922-2016

When Hacham Yaakov was young in Yeshiva, he would wake up before Chatzot and learn with his colleagues. After Shahrarit, while all his colleagues returned home for breakfast, he sat in Yeshiva with a Pita, ate, and continued learning until the

afternoon when everyone returned home for lunch, while again he remained in Yeshiva to learn after going quickly to the market and buying a small lunch, and then continued learning until the night. At that time, he wanted to travel to Israel to learn from great Sages and enjoy their spiritual light. He sent a letter to Hachem Ezra Attieh zt"l the Rosh Yeshiva of Porat Yosef. In the meantime, the matter became known to the Rabbanim in Halab, Hacham Shelomo Zaafrani zt"l, his future father-in-law, and they told him that he would be leaving behind his mother who was a widow, all alone with her orphan children, without a livelihood, and therefore it was not the right time to leave. He was appointed to manage the orphanage in Halab at that time by Mr. Joe Edward Dweck, the father-in-law of Mr. Rephael Nehmad. When R' Yitzchak Esses a"h passed away, the authority over the orphanages, R' Yaakov eulogized him beautifully and meaningfully to all those in attendance.

Story

Zusha was a Jewish clothing merchant with a store filled with very nice merchandise. All dignitaries and important people who wished to look their best with honor and prestige would come to Zusha for a most exquisite wardrobe. The well-known Jew would dress the wealthy and powerful in fine clothing. He performed amazing work, always had the best product, and was known for his honesty and integrity in business and in life. Zusha would support Torah, through his Rebbe the author of Kedushat Sion. Every Chanukah and Shavuot, he would close up shop and pay people to stand at the entrance to inform those who came that the owner went away for a few days and would be back soon afterwards to return to business.

Laws:

Barech Alenu

This year we begin reciting Barech Alenu in the Amidah starting with Arbit Tuesday night December 5th.

1 – If one forgot to say 'Barech Alenu' and remembered before saying Hashem's name at the end of the Beracha, he must then say 'Veten Tal Umatar Libracha' and then say the Beracha.

2 – If he remembered only after saying Hashem's name, but before beginning the next Beracha of 'Tekah Beshofar' he must say there 'Veten Tal

Umatar Libracha' and then continue with 'Tekah Beshofar'.

3 – If he already began 'Tekah', he must continue until 'Shema Kolenu', and there, before saying 'Ki Atah Shomeah Tefillat Kol Peh', he should say 'Veten Tal Umatar Libracha', and end off 'Shema Kolenu' as usual. (If he is fasting, and must say Anenu, he should first say 'Veten Tal Umatar Libracha' and then Anenu.)

4 – If he began to say Hashem's name, he should end off 'Lamedeni Chukecha' and return and say 'Veten Tal Umatar Libracha', and then end off again 'Ki Atah Shomeah Tefillat Kol Peh.' If he finished the Beracha, he should say it before starting 'Retzeh'.

5 – If he already said the word 'Retzeh', he must return to 'Barech Alenu' and then continue from there on to 'Tekah' and so on.

6 – Likewise, he must go back to 'Barech Alenu' if he remembered in middle of 'Modim' or 'Elokai Netzor'.

7 – However, if he remembered after saying 'Yihyu Leratzon' a second time, even if he did not move 3 steps back, he must go back to the beginning of the Tefillah and start over.

8 – All this applies even to Arbit, which is not considered a mandatory prayer.

9 – The same laws listed above apply equally to a lady as to a man.

10 – If one is uncertain whether or not he said it: If he is within 30 days of the time they started reciting it in prayers, then he assumes he did not say it. However, after 30 days he can consider himself to have said it.

Laws: Chanukah

1 – This year we begin lighting the Chanukah lights on Thursday night, the 7th of December.

2 – The proper time to light the Menorah is about 30 minutes after Shekiah, around 5:00pm, until around 5:15pm. If one did not light by Tzet Hacoachavim (3 stars), he should light as soon as he can throughout the night until Amud Hashahar.

3 – Friday, Erev Shabbat, we first light the Menorah and then afterwards the Shabbat candles. One must put enough oil in the Menorah on Friday for it to last for at least one hour.

4 – Minha Friday afternoon of Chanukah should be prayed early in Shul with a Minyan before

lighting the Menorah on Erev Shabbat. "Bameh Madlikin" is not recited in Shul Friday night.

Sponsors

*** **Mr. Moshe Yedid HaLevi, his wife Yetta, and their children.** Blessings and success for the entire family, Amen. *** **Mr. Henry Kameo, his wife Farha, and their children.** Blessings and success for the entire family, Amen. *** **Mrs. Touni Levy Shrem, her husband Shahoud Shaul, and their children.** Blessings and success for the entire family, Leilui Nishmat her brother **Hacham Avraham Shrem Ben Rachel a"h**, Amen. *** **Mrs. Suzi Farhi, her husband David, and their children.** Blessings and success for the entire family, Leilui Nishmat her brother **Avraham Ben Linda a"h**, Amen. *** **Mrs. Tania Antabi and her son Soly Shaalo, and their children.** Blessings and success for the entire family, Leilui Nishmat her mother **Linda Bat Tera Esther 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. 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. Leah Bareket and her children.** Blessings and success for the entire family, Leilui Nishmat her husband **Yehuda Ben Rima a"h**, Amen. *** **Mr. Taleb Hara, his wife Becky, and their children.** Blessings and success for the entire family, Refuah Shelemah, Mazal Tov to **Jack and Berta**, Mazal Tov to **David and Suzy**, Mazal Tov to the bride and groom **Morris and Esty**, Mabrouk, Amen.

*This week's sponsorship total is \$750
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