

Congregation

◆◆◆"Beth Yosef"◆◆◆

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

Rabbi Aharon Farhi
Parashat Miketz
4th Tevet 5784

Maqam Ajam
Issue #1053

Mr. Eliyahu Levy, President
Haftarat Vayikatz Shelomo
December 16th 2023

*Candle Lighting 4:11pm * Shekiah 4:29pm * Shir Hashirim 4:05pm followed by Minha Friday Night
Shaharit Shabbat 8:15am * Minha Shabbat 3:55pm * Shabbat Ends 5:11pm & Rabbenu Tam 5:41pm
Time for Talit 6:18am * Seasonal Hour 55 * Alot Hashahar 6:07am * Netz Hachama 7:13am
Weekday Minha 4:15pm * Earliest Time for Arbit 3:57pm * Tzet Hacoachavim 5:06pm * Chatzot 11:51
Latest Time for Morning Keriat Shema 8:52am * Latest Time for Morning Amidah 9:47am*

***The fast of the 10th of Tevet will be Friday December 22nd
Fast begins 6:11am and ends 5:00pm, for the strict 5:09pm***

*Sponsored by: The generous donor Mr. Ramaz Ashurov, his wife Parino, and their children.
May Hashem bless the entire family with spiritual and physical blessings and success, Amen.*

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

To sponsor our weekly publication, please mail your donation to:

**Vaad Tehilim Torah c/o R' A. Farhi
2415 Ocean Parkway, Brooklyn NY 11235**

Please do not read this bulletin during Tefillah or Keriat Hatorah

The first time Yosef encountered his brothers, he commanded his servants to fill their sacks with grain, and to return their money into their sacks. When the brothers arrived at an inn during their return journey back home, one of the brothers opened his sack to feed his donkey and their hearts sank when he discovered the money in his sack. How come only one brother discovered the money? Didn't they all open their sacks to feed their donkeys? Rather, Yosef had instructed that the money be placed at the top of the sack for only one brother, while for the other brothers the money was placed in middle or at the bottom of the sack. Yosef did not want them to return just yet, and finding the money in just one sack was enough to keep them away. When they returned to their father Yaakov and completely emptied out their sacks, they each discovered money in their own sacks as well, and they were then terrified. After the second time they had visited Yosef, the Pasuk says about Yosef, "Then he instructed the one in charge of his house, saying, "Fill the men's saddlebags with as much food as they can carry and put each man's money in the mouth of his saddlebag. And my goblet – the silver goblet – place in the mouth of the youngest one's saddlebag along with the money of his purchase." Many

questions are asked concerning this point in the story. 1 – Didn't Yosef already trouble and punish his brothers enough? He had been given the chance to see Binyamin, his dreams were already fulfilled, and seemingly it was unnecessary to provide another lesson and test for his brothers to face. Why did he insist on putting his brothers through this seemingly unnecessary situation? What's more, why did he do this to Binyamin, his full brother from both parents, who hadn't ever done anything wrong to him? 2 – Why did Yosef return the money of their purchases now? They were going to come back anyway because of the silver goblet. Why not wait until later to return their money? The fact that they will find their money in their bags will just prove the whole situation is a scam, since the brothers will say that if indeed Binyamin took the goblet, then how exactly did we all get our money back? The Ramban explains that Yosef returned the money to make the brothers believe that he is sorry for having put them through so much trouble already and it would therefore not mess up his plan. However, this explanation does not fit with the way the Pasuk is worded: "Put each man's money in the mouth of his saddlebag. And my goblet..." It seems that the money and goblet were both with the same intention, since the

Pasuk states them together. They were both to be hidden for the same reason. We must therefore begin to explain Yosef's intentions. The brothers had done wrong to Yosef in three fashions: 1 – They accused him of being an informer to their father. 2 – They cast him into a pit. 3 – They sold him and caused him much grief and anguish. Nonetheless, they did not succeed in causing him pain and suffering, for Hashem is the one who designs the plans. Yosef was now exacting measure for measure. They had accused him of being an informer, so he accused them of being spies. He captured Shimon and cast him into jail, just as they had cast him into a pit. He then planned to take Binyamin as a servant just as they had sold him as a slave. He wished to place the goblet in Binyamin's bag since he was also the son of Rachel and was sent for the purpose of his brothers' peace, just as Yosef had been sent to do so long ago. Since they did not turn on Binyamin as they had done to Yosef, Yosef as well did not react cruelly. All was done measure for measure. Yosef had a doubt in his mind that he wanted to clear now that he had the opportunity: did the brothers love Binyamin or did they hate all the children of Rachel? He therefore specifically placed the goblet in Binyamin's bag to see if they'll turn against him or defend him like true brothers. Perhaps they will accuse him of stealing just as Rachel had stolen the idols from her father Lavan so long ago. Perhaps they will just condemn him to death as well? When they claimed "*The one among your servants with whom it is found shall die*" – they did not speak out of hatred, only out of embarrassment. Through this episode, Yosef had performed measure for measure, every part of the story necessary, and had therefore revealed that his brothers had indeed repented by proving that they truly loved Binyamin when they protected him instead of turning against him. May Hashem watch over us, Amen.

Insights on the Parasha

1 – *Now Yosef – he was the viceroy over the land, he was the provider to all the people of the land.* In appearance, Yosef was a ruler, powerful and great, but within his heart he was a provider, a humble and caring person.

2 – *So Yosef's brothers – ten of them – went down to buy grain from Egypt.* Why doesn't the Pasuk

call them the sons of Yaakov? Because this episode began the fulfillment of Yosef's dreams, and their role was therefore best characterized here as the brothers of Yosef. Also, they are the brothers of Yosef because at this point they regretted selling Yosef, and planned to find him in Egypt. They wanted to reunite with him, redeem him at all costs with money, and the fact the Pasuk says that they were ten is because they were a Minyan of men in order to have the Shechinah among them while they prayed for Yosef's redemption.

History in Brief

130 years after the Hurban, 200AD. R' Yossi would teach: we must emulate Hashem, to be caring, generous, and merciful to others. Even when Hashem must punish, the sinner is shown compassion. When the snake was punished to eat dirt, the mercy is that dirt is always readily available. When Canaan was punished to be slaves, the mercy is that their master must provide similar sustenance, sharing his own food and drink. Although a woman was cursed, man chases after her. The earth was cursed, but everyone needs the earth to produce food. We too cannot punish without mercy, and must show compassion even to those who have done wrong. He would also teach: When Jews congregate in Shul and answer Amen Yehe Sheme Rabbah, Hashem accepts, nods, says fortunate is such a King, and forgives Bnei Yisrael from their sins. Once, the Roman ruler asked R' Yossi: Why was woman created by stealing a bone from man? He answered, if someone secretly takes a chest full of silver from you, but then openly returns the chest full of gold, is this considered stealing?

Health and Recovery

What causes the desire to fill the belly with food? There are several factors. 1 – The eye sees the desirable food. 2 – The delicious aroma stimulates through the nose. 3 - The tongue's sensors are then stimulated on behalf of the anticipated food. 4 – Feelings of hunger are triggered. Let us now talk about the last point: hunger. A person thinks that most of what he puts into his mouth remains in his body and he only gets rid of little, when in fact only a very small amount of the food we eat remains in the body, and the rest is digested out.

The food intake system is a completely sealed system which starts from the absorption chamber and goes on to the removal of waste from the body. The food that we put into our mouths goes to the stomach, mixes with sixty-four saliva enzymes, mixes with the stomach juices, the pancreas and gallbladder secretions, and then ends the process of breaking down the food. The thin part of the liquid that comes out of this mixture is mixed with a large amount of fluids where the food can then be absorbed into the body and fed through thin capillaries located in the small intestine walls. These capillaries can absorb only a very thin liquid into the bloodstream, which only the intestinal walls can absorb into the blood vessels and nourish us. Everything beyond that is sent to come out of our bodies in the form of waste. However, not everything that goes into our mouths that isn't used is able to just come out of our bodies as waste. This is because much of the food ingested will become fat and remain in the body, which then causes the person to increase in weight from day to day, and can cause many health issues.

Mussar: *Derech Eretz*

Derech Eretz is beloved before Hashem, for nothing can last in existence without it. One who lacks this important feature and characteristic is worthless, lost in the wilderness of life. One who possesses this attribute is praised and exalted above in heaven and below on earth. Even the Torah is glorified through him, for Torah clings to Hashem only if it was learnt with Derech Eretz. One who lacks in this area cannot dwell among man, for nobody will consider his words or actions seriously, or even worth their time. What is Derech Eretz? This character trait includes fear of heaven before Hashem, acting with humbleness, selflessness, and speaking softly with people. With Derech Eretz one will find himself successful with his actions, words, eating, drinking, dress code, and business decisions. The most supreme level of Derech Eretz is to know, understand, and recognize that Hashem is the One who created you and everything else from nothing, constantly does everything within His creation, is the only One Who deserves the credit, and we therefore must perform all His commandments to perfection, cling to His Torah, and be joyous and happy always. *Derech Eretz precedes Torah* – every

Sefer has an introduction. The introduction for the Torah is Derech Eretz. Perform Derech Eretz by respecting your parents who worked so hard on you, and still constantly work hard on you, in order to establish you as the person you are today, and the great person you will one day become. Do kindness for the rich, poor, living, and deceased, for existence depends on kindness and compassion. Pray in Shul with the congregation on time and recite Shema in its proper time, for then Hashem will accept your prayers, which will be a great benefit for everyone, Amen.

Rishon LeSion: The Humble Gaon *Hacham Yaakov Attieh 1922-2017*

In Beirut, every evening before prayers, he would gather children in Shul and teach them Torah, Halachot, Mussar, and Derech Eretz. During the three months in the summer he would make a Ben Hazemanim Yeshiva for the children to learn while regular Yeshiva was on break. After a few years, he was given more responsibilities, to serve the people of Beirut alongside their leader Hacham Shahoud Shrem. Much of the people's needs were performed through him: Shechitah, Brit Milah, marriage ceremonies, divorce proceedings, and he authored questions and answers in Halacha which he provided for the people. He established a Yeshiva in Halab Aleppo, through his brother-in-law Hacham Avraham Zaafrani a"h, his wife's brother, and he sent money to Halab to support those learning in the Yeshiva in Halab. In his merit, many learned Torah in Halab. He then came to New York where he gave Shiurim in Shaare Zion, as well as other Shuls, spreading Torah, with Hacham Leon Guindi HaCohen and his friends, who learned Gemara and Halacha, in the merit of Morenu VeRabbenu Hacham Yom Tov Yedid zt"l, as they toiled in Torah and produced many students, and continue until this day, all in the merit of Hacham Yaakov Attieh a"h, Amen.

Story

Zusha was an expert tailor and clothing merchant who paid his taxes in full. He kept certain records in a book that he did not share with auditors, because he felt it didn't concern them. This was the book in which he wrote how much each person owed him in borrowed credit. Not everyone could afford his services, and so he allowed select few to

enjoy his products on credit, promising that they would pay him in full one day if and when they were able. He knew who to be lenient with and was able to balance costs because of good business practices. This book could pose a problem for Zusha, perhaps even cause him imprisonment, as it wasn't in accordance with the rules of the government. One day, a very respectable official came to the store of Zusha, along with three of his ministers, all dressed in fine clothing, and wanted to do business with Zusha, in honor of an upcoming sixtieth birthday party that would take place in two months.

Laws

1 – Rashi, Rambam, and Maran Shulchan Aruch teach that the Mezuzah is to be positioned straight along the doorpost.

2 – Rabbenu Tam teaches that the Mezuzah is to be positioned slanted along the doorpost, as is the custom of Ashkenazim.

3 – If the doorpost is very narrow and the Mezuzah cannot be positioned slanted, Hacham Ovadia Yosef teaches that even the Ashkenazim position the Mezuzah straight and not slanted.

4 – If one positions the Mezuzah horizontally, he has not fulfilled his obligation.

5 – Those who wake up early before Alot Hashahar to recite Bakashot Shabbat and eat cakes or other delectables should not be reproached.

6 – One cannot eat or drink before praying Shaharit, with the exception of water or tea/coffee with sugar.

7 – A woman who prays every day Shaharit can drink like a man before praying, even on Shabbat, however if she does not usually pray then she cannot drink anything at all before Kiddush.

8 – If a husband is delayed and late in returning home from Shul, a woman may recite Kiddush for herself and eat Mezonot.

Sponsors

*** **Mr. Eli Levy, his wife Becky, and their children.** Blessings, health, and success for the entire family, Mazal Tov on the occasion of their **60th Anniversary**, may they enjoy many more

years of happiness and health to 120 years, Amen. *** **R' Simon Goldstein, his wife Simmy, their parents, and their children.** Blessings and success for the entire family, Amen. *** **Mr. Shelomo Guindi HaCohen, his wife Berta, and their children.** Blessings and success for the entire family, Amen. *** **The young woman of fine character, Ruti (David) Farhi, her parents, her grandparents, and her siblings.** Blessings and success for the entire family, 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. *** **Mrs. Rita Levy Laniado, her husband Nissim, and their children.** Blessings and success for the entire family, Leilui Nishmat her mother **Margo Bat Mazal a"h**, Amen.

*This week's sponsorship total is \$1900
Weekly cost of publication & distribution \$1650
(\$150 to distribute in Israel by R' Malul)
176,500 Website visits!*

* * * * *

www.BethYosef.com