

Congregation



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

Rabbi Aharon Farhi
Parashat Shemot
25th Tevet 5784

Maqam Rast
Issue #1056

Mr. Eliyahu Levy, President
Haftarat Divre Yirmeyahu
January 6th 2024

*Candle Lighting 4:24pm * Shekiah 4:42pm * Shir Hashirim 4:15pm followed by Mincha Friday Night
Shaharit Shabbat 8:15am * Mincha Shabbat 4:05pm * Shabbat Ends 5:25pm & Rabbenu Tam 5:55pm
Time for Talit 6:25am * Seasonal Hour 55 * Alot Hashahar 6:14am * Netz Hachama 7:20am
Weekday Mincha 4:30pm * Earliest Time for Arbit 4:11pm * Tzet Hacoachavim 5:20pm * Chatzot 12:01
Latest Time for Morning Keriat Shema 8:59am * Latest Time for Morning Amidah 9:54am*

Sponsored generously by the good-hearted:

Mr. Joe Mordechai Allaham HaCohen, his wife Lillian, their parents, and their children.

May Hashem bless them with spiritual and physical success,
Leilui Nishmat his grandfather *Yosef Hamra Ben Farha a"h*, Amen.

Shovevim Fasting:

Thursday January 4th fast starts 6:14am and ends 5:05pm

Monday January 8th fast starts 6:14am and ends 5:10pm

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

Moshe grew up, went out to his brethren, and observed their burdens. It was not enough for Moshe to just know from a distance what was happening to the Jewish nation, as he lived comfortably in the luxuries of Pharaoh's palace. He had to go out and see for himself, first hand, up close. He wanted to experience it, witness it, and feel it. It made a real impression on him, and he decided to do whatever he can in his power to help them. We learn from here that in order to really feel what others are experiencing, to really share in their pain, we must go out of our own comfort zone and imagine ourselves physically and mentally in their shoes. This is why Moshe was chosen to be their leader, because he cared about them and shared in their pain. If a person does not care and share in the pain of his friend, then one day he will be judged. We see this from the story of Iyuv, who suffered terribly in his lifetime. Why? Because he was a close advisor to Pharaoh, and he did not speak up against the plan to throw all the Jewish newborn boys into the river to drown. There was once a Yeshiva for

Baalei Teshuvah in Israel, where a young man was engaged to marry a young woman. Invitations were sent out, all the preparations were made, and it was but a few days away from the anticipated wedding. The bride then revealed to her future husband that in her past she had been living with a non-Jew. The young man was horrified to hear this from his future bride. He was a Cohen, and this fact would Halachically prevent their future marriage. What can they do? The invitations had all gone out and the wedding was only a few days away? Their parents had come to Israel for the wedding, as well as many other relatives and friends. This was sure to be a big embarrassment. In middle of the night, he went to visit his Rabbi to ask for advice. His Rabbi didn't know what to say, except that they should go immediately to Rabbi Auerbach zt"l for guidance. It was well past midnight, nonetheless they noticed the light shining in his window as he learned throughout the night. The Rabbi invited them into his home, and they told over their dilemma in detail. R' Auerbach was

so overwhelmed with their pain, with tears streaming down his cheeks he told the young man that there was nothing to be done Halachically in such a situation. However, his heart full of mercy, his tears streaming down his cheeks, and his prayers fervently for those in need brought a salvation the next day, when a Jewish visitor from Argentina heard about the situation and was able to testify that the man that the future bride had been involved with in the past whom she had thought was a non-Jew was actually a Jew, he could testify to his lineage, and therefore the wedding could in fact continue as scheduled. With the Rabbi's blessing, the two young Baalei Teshuvah were able to get married as planned in Israel. R' Auerbach is a great example of a true leader who genuinely feels for the suffering of others. May Hashem watch over us, Amen.

Insights on the Parasha

1 – Hashem told Moshe *Who makes a mouth for man, or who makes one silent.* We can understand giving someone a mouth, the ability to speak, but what does it mean to *make* one silent? Isn't silence passive, not an action? The answer is, Hashem gives a person the ability to remain silent when necessary, the ability to not even speak one word when it is best not to speak at all. This is a special help from Hashem, after having the ability to speak, to know when not to speak. (*R' Yisroel M'Rosen*)

2 – Moshe said, *I will turn aside now and look at this great sight.* Had Moshe not turned to look at the burning bush, the Jewish nation would have suffered a setback in their redemption. We too must turn to look, make efforts to go in the right direction, show interest and try, whether to go learn Torah, listen to a Shiur Torah, pray with Minyan, or perform any Mitzvah, because if not, who knows how much reward, benefit, and salvation is being lost.

History in Brief

130 years after the Hurban, 200AD. R' Yehuda was very poor. His wife was an Eshet Hayil, she went to the market, purchased wool, and made a nice robe for her husband. R' Yehuda would wear this robe when he prayed, and thanked

Hashem for being clothed in this robe. His wife would dress modestly when she went to the market. One day Raban Shimon Ben Gamliel declared a fast day, but R' Yehuda did not come to join with them. This was because he did not have clothing to come out with, as this was before his wife made him the robe. Raban Shimon Ben Gamliel sent him a robe with a messenger, but R' Yehuda did not accept the gift. What did R' Yehuda do? He lifted the mat that he sat on in his house and miraculously there were hundreds of gold coins, which he showed the messenger of Raban Shimon. He did not want to benefit from this world. One time, they brought dates that were difficult to digest and offered them to R' Yehuda and R' Shimon. R' Yehuda ate but R' Shimon did not eat. R' Shimon explained he didn't eat because this type of date does not digest well and stays in the stomach for a long time. R' Yehuda answered that this was exactly why he ate them, because he was poor, and the longer they remained in his body, the longer he can benefit from them.

Health and Recovery

The olive is one of seven species that the land of Israel is praised by for producing. It is first introduced in the Torah during the Great Flood in the days of Noah, as the dove brought back an olive branch in its mouth. An olive branch therefore symbolizes peace, a symbol recognized and used throughout the world. Olive oil was used to anoint our kings and Cohen Gadol. Olive oil was also used with sacrifices brought upon the Mizbeah. Olive trees can live for hundreds of years, and in fact there are olive trees in Israel today that are over a thousand years old! David Hamelech wished to be like an olive tree in his older years. In the Torah, olive oil labeled as Yitzhar is pure, clean olive oil without anything else. Oil is used for lighting, eating, smearing, and healing. There are hundreds of different types of olives – some are grown for the oil, and some are grown for consumption.

Mussar: Love for Hashem

There is nothing greater than loving Hashem, for all services for Hashem sprout forth from this

attribute. There is no comparison between a person who serves Hashem with love and a person who serves Hashem with fear. Loving Hashem is one of the 613 Mitzvot that one is able to always fulfill. One can fulfill this Mitzvah even through just thought. Everyone has constant thoughts – one should just substitute his usual thoughts with some thoughts of love for Hashem, and he will have fulfilled a great Mitzvah! Love Hashem and His great Torah, which is the source and the wellsprings of life and from which you can draw much merit. If someone gives you a gift you automatically begin to like them. If they completely support you and grant you all of your needs, you begin to love them. If they then save your life and prevent, or even cure you, from terrible sicknesses, you will feel great love towards that person. How much more must we love Hashem who grants us everything, whether it appears to be coming from heaven or from another person – it is really always from Hashem! For every breath we take we must thank Hashem and feel great love towards Him. Do not close off your heart! Hashem continuously grants us life and countless goodness, even while we are sinning, and allows us time to repent and have remorse over our wrongdoings. One can begin counting the great favors Hashem performs for us, starting from his mother's womb before he was even born! There are countless favors Hashem does for us each and every moment - we are unaware of most of them - and unfortunately, we do not think enough about the ones we do know about. We must strengthen our love for Hashem and our bond with Him, fulfill His Mitzvot, and toil greatly in the depths of His holy Torah. May Hashem merit us, Amen.

The Humble Gaon

Hacham Yaakov Attieh 1922-2017

After about twenty years in Beirut, Lebanon, Hacham Yaakov wanted to move on for the Chinuch of the children, but the Vaad of the Kehillah argued for him to stay, stating that his departure would leave behind a large void that could not be filled. There was nobody else who could fill his place, nonetheless it was his

decision to make, and they could not convince him otherwise. He was determined to move to Israel. Many congregations throughout the world made offers to Hacham Yaakov, to compensate him very well if he would come be their official rabbinical leader, but he did not consider any of them, because he needed his children to be educated in Torah in the holy land of Israel. After the holiday of Sukkot in 1970, with great sacrifice he traveled to Israel and lived in Bat Yam. He immediately involved himself with Tefilla and Shiur Torah. He established Kehillat Bet Yaakov, where today hundreds continue to pray each day. Through his work he established Torah institutions with purity and holiness.

Story

Zusha had allowed the wealthy Danki to make large purchases mostly on credit, and he was concerned about the debt being paid in full. He would need to be very careful moving forward. However, Danki was soon back with a new purchase order. Danki admitted that he still owed Zusha for the past purchases, for which he had received very impressive compliments from all his acquaintances. However, at the moment his workers were traveling overseas handling a large and lucrative business deal on his behalf, and he did not have the available funds to pay Zusha for his products and services. In a month, however, Danki promised he would be able to pay everything in full. Zusha recorded the large amount in his record book and Danki signed on the debt. Zusha did not recognize the sly smile on Danki's face, as he signed for the purchases.

Laws

- 1** – A guest blesses his host when reciting Birkat Hamazon.
- 2** – Married children bless their parents as hosts in Birkat Hamazon, but not single children who still live in the home.
- 3** – Students who eat their meals in Yeshiva do not bless the Yeshiva as their host in Birkat Hamazon, however it is good to add a 'Harachaman' to bless the donors who donated the meals, and 'Harachaman' to bless that the

table always serve those who are hungry like the table of Avraham Avinu.

4 – At a Seuda for a bride and groom Sheva Berachot, say ‘Harachaman’ to bless the Baal Seudah, but do not say the ‘Baal Habayit’.

5 – When eating Seuda Shelisheet in Shul, if many donated, they say ‘Baalei Seudah’ in plural, and if the Shul is paying for the meal, then bless all those who work for the Shul in order to prepare the meal.

Sponsors

*** *Hazzan Naim Zemirov Yisrael Mr. Menachem Mustacci, his wife Nina, and their children.* Blessings and success for the entire family, Refuah Shelemah for *Menachem Ben Naomi*, Amen. *** *Mr. Avraham Abraham, his wife, and their children.* Blessings and success for the entire family, Amen. *** *Mr. Morris Abadi, his wife Mira, and their children.* Blessings and success for the entire family, Leilui Nishmat her father *Yitzchak Ben Miriam a”h*, Amen. *** *Mr. Eli Shalouh HaCohen, his wife Esther, and their children.* Blessings and success for the entire family, Leilui Nishmat the Chief Hacham of Damascus Mekubal Hacham *Rabbi Nissim Indibo HaCohen Ben Nazira a”h*, may his merits protect us, Amen. *** *Anonymous Donor.* Blessings and success for the entire family, Leilui Nishmat the great Mekubal *Rabbi Yitzchak Kadouri Ben Tifaha a”h*, may his merits protect us, Amen. *** *Anonymous Donor.* Blessings and success for the entire family, Leilui Nishmat the fine man *Yaakov Jack Swed Ben Badia a”h*, Amen. *** *Mrs. Touni Levy Shrem, her husband Shahoud, and their children.* Blessings and success for the entire family, Leilui Nishmat her father the Hazzan *Shelomo Shrem Ben Mazal a”h*, Leilui Nishmat her mother *Rachel Bat Jamila a”h*, and Leilui Nishmat her mother-in-law *Altoun Bat Salha 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 father *Shelomo Ben Yehudit a”h*, and 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. *** *The Farhi Family.* Blessings and success for the entire family, Leilui Nishmat their mother *Sarah Bat Salha a”h*, Amen. *** *Mr. Eli Levy, his wife Becky, and their children.* Blessings, health, and success for the entire family, Amen. *** *Mrs. Nina Romano Hamra, her husband Mordechai, and their children.* Blessings and success for the entire family, Leilui Nishmat her father *Yosef Ben Nahlie a”h*, and Leilui Nishmat her sister *Rachel Bat Latifah a”h*, Amen. *** *Mr. Mordechai Allaham HaCohen, his wife Lousett, and their children.* Blessings and success for the entire family, Leilui Nishmat his father *Yosef Ben Farha a”h*, Amen. *** *Mr. Avraham Farhi, his wife Rania, and their children.* Blessings and success for the entire family, Refuah Shelemah for *Julia Bat Bahia*, Amen. *** *Mr. Shelomo Maleh, his wife Ronit, and their children.* Blessings and success for the entire family, Leilui Nishmat *Yosef Ben Mazal a”h*, Leilui Nishmat *Touni Bat Mazal a”h*, and Leilui Nishmat the young boy who passed away in youth *Yehuda Ben Margalit a”h*, Amen.

*This week’s sponsorship total is \$2000
178,600 Website visits!*

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