

Congregation

◆◆◆"Beth Yosef"◆◆◆

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

Rabbi Aharon Farhi

*Parashat **Ki Tisa***

22nd Adar Rishon 5784

Mr. Eliyahu Levy, President

*Haftarat **Vayishlah Ahav***

March 2nd 2024

Maqam Hijaz

Issue #1064

*Candle Lighting 5:29pm * Shekiah 5:47pm * Shir Hashirim 5:25pm followed by Mincha Friday Night
Shaharit Shabbat 8:15am * Mincha Shabbat 5:15pm * Shabbat Ends 6:30pm & Rabbenu Tam 7:00pm
Time for Talit 5:22am * Seasonal Hour 66 * Alot Hashahar 5:09am * Netz Hachama 6:28am
Weekday Mincha 5:40pm * Earliest Time for Arbit 5:02pm * Tzet Hacoachavim 6:25pm * Chatzot 12:07
Latest Time for Morning Keriat Shema 8:28am * Latest Time for Morning Amidah 9:34am*

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Please do not read this bulletin during Tefillah or Keriat Hatorah

This week's Parasha speaks about the *Ketoret* which was performed every day in the Bet Hamikdash. The Gemara teaches us that the Angel of Death had given this secret as a present to Moshe Rabbenu when he ascended to heaven to receive the Torah. The *Ketoret* was cherished by Hashem more than any other sacrifice, since other sacrifices, *Asham*, *Chatat*, *Olah*, *Shelamim*, and *Mincha*, were all intended to atone for sins, while the *Ketoret* was not brought to atone for a sin, rather it was only brought for joy and happiness, as it says *oil and Ketoret delight the heart*, referring to the oil of the Menorah coupled with the performance of the daily *Ketoret*, for the Menorah was kindled when they were bringing the *Ketoret*. The *Ketoret* provided us with a powerful advantage: its smoke and scent was an unbelievable spiritual 'medicine' for the person that experienced it. While the *Ketoret* was brought upon the Golden Altar in the Hechal opposite the Aron, if one was present in the outside Azarah while the *Ketoret* was being brought, his heart would become enlightened to repent and perform true and complete *Teshuvah*. His heart would be cleansed from all impurity. Just as the *Tzitz*,

with the name of Hashem written upon it, would imbed *Yirat Hashem* into the hearts of those who gazed upon it and they would perform *Teshuvah*, so too would one be affected from smelling the *Ketoret* while it was being brought upon the Altar. Since it is so precious and valuable, one should strive to recite the passages of *Ketoret* every morning and afternoon. Reciting this can be more beloved than prayer. *Rabi Shimon Bar Yochai* says: If people would realize how precious the *Pitum HaKetoret* is before Hashem, they would crown every word and letter with gold, and place it on their head like a golden crown. Anyone who pleasantly recites *Ketoret* everyday by *Shacharit* and *Mincha*, word by word, not missing even one letter, and understands what he is reading, he will be saved that day from unfortunate situations, unfortunate deaths, improper thoughts, and will be protected that day from evil and damage. It is definitely better to read it from parchment, as a *Sefer Torah* is written. During a time of sickness, disease, and epidemic, the best recovery can come through the recitation of the *Ketoret*. Once, a Rabbi visited a city that was known for its terrible sicknesses and epidemics that

plagued its citizens. He instructed them to take 40 heaven fearing scholars, place ten of them on each of the four sides of the city, and have them recite the Pitum HaKetoret. After doing so, Hashem removed the sicknesses from the city. They changed the name of the city from Tarsa to *Meta Machsia*, meaning the *city of mercy*. One should recite the Pitum HaKetoret from a parchment when he is sick in order to attain a speedy recovery. Today it is written by a Sofer using the Sefer Torah font known as Ashurit. May Hashem watch over us, Amen. (*Levush Yosef*)

Insights on the Parasha

1 – Moshe saw the Golden Calf in the image of a donkey and an ox. He asked the image of a donkey who had made it, and the donkey responded that the Erev Rav, whose flesh is like that of a donkey, had created it. He asked the image of an ox who had made it, and the ox explained that the ring which was used to raise the bones of Yosef out of the Nile River, on which the words ‘rise up ox’ were written upon, had been provided to Aharon by the Erev Rav along with all the other gold rings that had been collected, and when cast into the fire produced the ox that he was. This is the meaning of the Pasuk, *An ox knows its acquirer, and a donkey knows his caretaker, but Yisrael do not recognize* – the ox and donkey refer to the Erev Rav, who were identified as the true culprits for committing the sin of the golden calf, while Bnei Yisrael were not really responsible for the sin. (*Tikunei HaZohar*)

History in Brief

130 years after the Hurban, calendar year 200. Rebi Yehuda Hanasi, *Rabbenu Hakadosh*, was the 14th generation of Tanaim starting from Shimon HaTzaddik, 34th Generation from Moshe Rabbenu, each learning Torah for their predecessor’s

mouth, back to Har Sinai when the Torah was given from Hashem. At the age of 30 Rabbenu Hakadosh was appointed as the Nasi and Rosh Yeshiva. He was the Bechor of his father Raban Shimon Ben Gamliel the second, directly descended from David Hamelech. He established many students, such as: Rebi Chiya HaGadol, Rebi Oshaya, Rebi Yanai, Rebi Aba, Shemuel, Rebi Yochanan, and Rish Lakish. At that time the Roman Empire had reached its peak of success, after the destruction of our Bet Hamikdash. During his time as Nasi, Rabbenu Hakadosh saw 3 Caesars in power. The first was Antoninus, who was righteous, wise, and desired peace and prosperity above all. He believed that it was better for one of his people to live than to kill a thousand enemies. From beginning to end he was straight. He demolished barriers and borders, not through bloodshed, but through kindness and fairness. He established laws that are quoted from Rome to this day. He was very friendly with Rabbenu Hakadosh, and showed much kindness to the Jewish people.

Health and Recovery

The foot of a diabetic is a dangerous area of the body from which trouble begins. A diabetic must guard his feet most, because the nerves that communicate sensations to the brain are impaired, so they no longer feel pain or impact like a healthy person. As a result, if they experience sores or cuts on their feet or legs, by the time they realize the damage and potential harm the situation will have already deteriorated to a point that is very difficult. That is why it is important to examine each foot daily. Pay attention to any soreness, redness, or abnormalities, and do not walk around barefoot. Maintain good hygiene and cleanliness of your feet and wipe them well after washing. It is advisable to wear cotton socks, as well as wearing

properly fitted shoes that will not cause pressure or scraping to the feet. It is important to trim your toenails carefully. Sometimes, neglect can be the difference between healing and amputation. It is imperative for patients with diabetes to be cautious of everything that we have discussed. As well, much care is required to maintain proper gum health, as neglect in gum treatment can result in the development of heart disease, kidney failure, stroke, and osteoporosis. This is because the gums are saturated with blood vessels, so when there is inflammation, the problem comes into direct contact with the blood.

Mussar: *Return to Hashem*

When a person sins, he is distancing himself further from the true and just path. He sits in darkness and loses touch with Hashem. If he continues to sin, he will soon find himself in total darkness, completely closed off from Hashem's light. This results in a broken person who cannot realize goodness in his life. Everything seems bitter and he is in doubt whether Hashem exists or not. This shell of depression and hopelessness he has entrapped himself in only gets stronger and thicker the more he transgresses and he soon loses all focus and touch of purpose and meaning in life. He has nothing to hold on to and he is falling quickly down a dark and endless hole. He curses himself and others and complains about everything. He soon thinks death is an escape route and an opportunity to be free. Even if he hears awaking words, he does not know how to apply it. There is but one resolution to his problem: The person must break through the depression, laziness, and unwillingness to continue and begin to fight by thinking about the goodness Hashem has given him and be happy and joyous. Only with joy can one begin to heal himself and open the gates to

his future. Talk, pray, and pour out your heart and soul to Hashem to guide you, for He hears all. "*Hashem is close to those who call out to Him*" – when? – "*When they call out to Him with truth*". Fortunate are those that give others happiness and reasons to rejoice, for they are healing souls and giving hope. With this one can remove their shells of darkness that block out Hashem's holy light, Amen.

Rishon LeSion:

R' Ben-Zion Uziel 1880-1953

R' Uziel was appointed as Hacham Bashi over Yaffo, to serve with R' Avraham Kook HaCohen at his side, during the troubled years of World War I. He would meet with ministers, officers, and kings, in order to counsel and collaborate for his people. The effects of the great war reached Yaffo as well, and many suffered with little to eat. The controlling government came down hard on the Jewish people of Yaffo with a heavy yoke, despite the efforts of their leader R' Uziel to mitigate on their behalf, but without him they would not have managed at all. The first decree enforced on the people in order to ease the burdens of the war was to banish all non-citizens, and to accomplish this the police went from door to door finding those who did not belong, rounded them up, and sent them away from the land. R' Uziel tried to speak reason against this decree but his words fell on deaf ears.

Story

The only son of the wealthy man Yeshaya reached the age of Bar Mitzvah without ever speaking a word in his life. Unfortunately, despite their efforts and expenses, no doctor anywhere seemed to have a cure for him. They tried many Segulot but those also did not help. What was all their wealth, power, and influence worth if they could not help

their son with his terrible fate? They would listen for news of any possible solution, any story that happened to someone else, that would lead them a step closer to anything positive. One day, they heard of a story in a nearby town, involving a family with a similar situation, whose son was also unable to speak for the longest time, but miraculously he was now able to speak just as well as anyone else. He donned his travel cloak and filled his money pouch with much gold, ready to pay handsomely for a lead to a cure. When he reached the home of Mordechai, the young man that had been cured, they invited Yeshaya into their home and began to tell him the story. The parents allowed Mordechai to be the one to say over his own story, as they could not listen enough to his miraculous newfound voice.

Laws

1 – Yehuda Ben Tema teaches: A person must be as bold as a leopard, light as an eagle, fast as a deer, and strong as a lion, to do the Mitzvot of Hashem. Sometimes a person is embarrassed to perform a righteous deed for fear that others may ridicule his piety. Therefore, a person must be as bold as a leopard, and not be embarrassed from his service to Hashem. However, he should not quarrel with others over it either, because fighting is not a way to a solution and should be avoided even when serving Hashem, otherwise a person might become accustomed to arguing which will not be good.

2 – Be as light as an eagle, who flies up high in the sky, and sees from great distances. Be careful with what you see, protect your sight, for seeing could easily be the beginning of sin, as the eye sees and the heart desires, which then leads to sinful action. Be as fast as a deer, and use your swiftness to run to perform Mitzvot, but be careful not to be

quick to chase towards sin, which will be counterproductive.

Rabanan measurements:

Kor = 166.600 kg
 Eiphah = 16.660 kg
 Se'ah = 5.555 kg
 Se'ah of Mikveh = 8.30 L
 Kav = 925 gm
 Lug = 230 gm
 Reviit = 86.40 gm
 Beitzah = 57.60 gm
 Kezayit = 28.80 gm or 25.60 gm

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 184,500 Website visits!*

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