

Congregation

◆◆◆◆ **"Beth Yosef"** ◆◆◆◆

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

Rabbi Aharon Farhi
*Parashat **Pinehas***
21st Tammuz 5784

Maqam Saba
Issue #1082

Mr. Eliyahu Levy, President
*Haftarat **Divre Yirmeyahu***
July 27th 2024

*Candle Lighting 7:58pm * Shekiah 8:16pm * Shir Hashirim 7:00pm followed by Mincha Friday Night
Shaharit Shabbat 8:15am * Mincha Shabbat 7:35pm * Shabbat Ends 8:57pm & Rabbenu Tam 9:27pm
Time for Talit 4:25am * Seasonal Hour 84 * Alot Hashahar 4:08am * Netz Hachama 5:49am
Weekday Mincha 7:00pm * Earliest Time for Arbit 7:07pm * Tzet Hacoachavim 8:52pm * Chatzot 1:02
Latest Time for Morning Keriat Shema 8:20am * Latest Time for Morning Amidah 9:42am*

*Sponsored by: **Mr. Leon Farhi, his wife Eva, and their children.**
**Blessings of physical and spiritual success, wishing blessings for the
family of Mr. Albir Cohen (abo Edmon) and his son Moni, Amen.***

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

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The episode with Pinehas, Zimri son of Salu, and the sin of the people with the daughters of Moab and Midian spans for three Parashiot, beginning in Parashat Balak, continuing into Parashat Pinehas, and concluding in Parashat Matot as Hashem commands Moshe to exact vengeance on the people of Midian. After Pinehas acted with zealotry in Parashat Balak, we don't find any mention of his reward until a week later in Parashat Pinehas. Why? To teach us a lesson: when someone acts with zealotry in honor of Hashem, he must be investigated for motive. Why did he do it? What did he do afterwards? A full week separates the action from the reward to teach us that it is not easily understood whether or not a zealot acts for the correct reasons. Only after analyzing the facts can he then be rewarded for his actions. The value of a true zealot is not recognized by his actions, but by his intent, by his heart.

Throwing stones, screaming, lighting fires, do not identify a real zealot, only his intentions and the resolve in his heart for the sake of Hashem. Yes, he took a spear in his hand and killed the Nasi Zimri son of Salu at the right moment, but the only thing that matters is why he did it, and that is the difference between a murderer and a true zealot in the honor of Hashem. Our holy Sages teach us that there is no class that can be given in order to guide towards zealotry. It is something that is inherently in the heart. There is no way to know what is in the heart of man, and therefore a spiritual leader cannot provide the proper guidance to perform zealotry. You either have the passion and resolve or you don't. Only Hashem knows what is truly in man's heart. Does the man love Hashem, does he hate falsehood and evil, and is he prepared to risk his life for the honor of Hashem. Only a real zealot knows what he feels, what he thinks, and whether he is prepared to act. After this

episode, the people unfortunately had already been influenced towards immorality, to feed their desires, to the point that even after a terrible plague claimed the lives of twenty-four thousand men, they were still affected by the negative influence of the enemy nations that tempted them to sin. Hashem then commanded Moshe to wage war again Midian in Parashat Matot, to destroy the evil at its core, in order to release the people for the evil inclination and save them for the ongoing threat of sin. This completed the episode that spanned three Parashiot. May Hashem watch over us, Amen.

Insights on the Parasha

1 – Regarding the passing of Moshe Rabbenu, it says: *You shall be gathered unto your people, you, too, as Aharon your brother was gathered in.* This could have been written shorter, why include the words *unto your people*? Moshe saw that when Aharon passed away, he merited to witness the crown of priesthood being passed down to his sons before passing away. Moshe also wanted to witness his leadership passing down to his children, replacing his position, before passing away. Hashem told Moshe, his children would not be taking his place, rather he himself will live on in the nation, as their true leader for all generations to come, he will be *gathered unto the people*, as everyone who learns Torah every day understand that this is the Torah that Moshe Rabbenu accepted on our behalf and delivered to us as a nation, the Torah is true, and our leader Moshe is true, forever. (*Ketav Sofer*)

History in Brief

150 years after the Hurban, calendar year 220. As the Caesar and the Roman government witnessed the shift in power away from them towards the Pope and his priests, the people lifting the Pope up as their leader, the Caesar began killing priests in torturous fashion, destroying their establishments, hitting hard

against their ideology, and even killed the Pope as well. They did not want to lose power of government. However, they were not successful in winning back the people. In the year 104, the Pope established Sunday as their day of rest. In the year 248, the Pope established a holiday of Easter to be celebrated around the same time as the Jewish holiday of Pesah, on the first Sunday following the first full moon after the spring equinox. They also instituted that marriage ceremonies only be performed by an official priest in their place of worship. As the priests grew in power throughout Rome, the Caesar Antoninus Pius decreed in the fiftieth year of his reign in the year 149 that all who practiced Christianity should be sentenced to death. That period of time was the worst in history for the Pope and priests. They faced annihilation. At that time Rabbenu Hakadosh was greatly respected by the Caesar and all of the Roman Government. Rebi Shimon Ben Menasia said: Rebbe merited seven great attributes that our Sages characterize for the most righteous: splendor, power, wealth, honor, wisdom, advanced age, and legacy.

Health and Recovery

Regarding the health of the neck: Prolonged bending of the head to the left or right, i.e. to hold the phone between the ear and the shoulder during a telephone call, while allowing simultaneous operation with your free hands, can cause severe damage to the neck vertebrae from the pressure on the blood vessels that lead the blood to the brain. In rare cases it can cause a stroke even in young people. In addition, this causes the muscles to tighten on one side and stretch on the other side, which in turn will cause stiffness and limitation in turning the head to the sides, and in old age the result can be a tilting to one side. When continued in practice over a long period of time, the most definitive result will be uncomfortable lingering neck pain. These types of pain do not go away, unlike the pain

caused from the constant blowing of a fan, air conditioning, or resting the head on high cushions, which all pass over time. The location can be massaged, warmed, loosened with physical therapy, however there's usually no treatment for healing to speak of, so these practices should be avoided altogether. The neck is very important, and if damaged or strained, repair and restoration is far from guaranteed. Nowadays, with the increased use of computers in our generation, more and more people are typing on the computer for hours on end, not knowing how to properly position themselves while working on the computer, and as a result they are causing harm to their bodies. It is important to know that working on a computer for a long and uninterrupted period of time, even unintentionally, can lead to severe consequences such as shoulder issues, joint pain, cartilage erosion, tendonitis, and much more, all of which are difficult to treat and cure.

Mussar: Love for Torah

Anyone fortunate enough to spend time toiling in the study of Torah with the devotion of his heart and soul will merit true and everlasting joy and happiness from the Torah. There is no comparison to it or imitation besides it. One who has this will need nothing else, as the Ran explains, *"Once the Torah shows you it's true face, you will not desire any reward in this world, and you will be satisfied only and definitely through the Torah"*. We must overpower our evil inclination. We must be patient. We must eat, sleep, and relax properly in order to be able to learn Torah properly. Never forsake your learning. Why does one have a hard time when he first sits down to learn? Because a person is physical and the Torah is completely spiritual. One must subjugate his physical being and humble himself before the Torah in order that its spirituality enters his body. Continue learning page after page and you will realize that you are accomplishing and acquiring true feelings

of joy and happiness. In the worlds above there is nothing else besides the joy of Torah. One who learns Torah will be granted access through all the heavenly gates, and anything he needs, both physically and spiritually, will be made available to him. May Hashem allow us the privilege and ability to toil in learning Torah, Amen.

Rishon LeSion:

Maran Hacham Ovadia Yossef 1921-2003

The grandfather of Maran Hacham Ovadia Yossef, who he was named after, worked hard in business for his livelihood in the great city of Baghdad. At that time two giants lived, outstanding Rabbanim: Hacham Abdullah Somekh, the author of Zibhe Tzedek, and Mekubal Harav Hagaon R' Yosef Chaim, the well-known author of Ben Ish Chai. His grandfather had a son Yaakov Yossef. One day when his father R' Ovadia went to the Shuk in the city of Baghdad, a non-Jew murdered him with a knife, may Hashem avenge his blood. His young son Yaakov was only thirteen years old, in poverty without means of supporting himself. He worked hard learning the goldsmith craft in order to make money. When he reached the age of marriage, he took his cousin as a bride, Georgia (Yaffa). She was refined in character and appearance, and was heaven fearing. Her father gave a good dowry in order to enable R' Yaakov to open a store as a goldsmith, as he had advanced well in his craft. He excelled and saved up three kilos of gold when he moved out of Baghdad. When he arrived in Israel, he settled in an old neighborhood along the Tigris River. The neighborhood was Jewish, men of kindness and generosity. Each week before Shabbat the poor would visit the neighborhood and collect in order to honor Shabbat with a meal of meat and fish.

Story

Armed officers came to the home of R' Yehuda to investigate the robbery in his attic.

They asked him to describe what was stolen, and after confirming the details, the officers explained that Hashem must love R' Yehuda. They showed him the stolen box of money that they had recovered. They had apprehended a known thief who had pleaded guilty to all the crimes he had committed. He had robbed many locations, and one of the locations had been R' Yehuda's attic. R' Yehuda's face turned pale as he realized at once that he had falsely accused the orphan Yehoshua of the robbery. They had called him a thief to his face. How terrible! R' Yehuda fainted and crumbled to the floor. The officers picked him up and revived him. They didn't understand, here they were returning a large sum of money that had been stolen from him, and instead of thanking them with dance and song, he turns white and faints?!

Laws: The Three Weeks

1 – There are many customs of mourning observed during the three weeks between the 17th of Tammuz until after the 9th of Av. One may not listen to live music, or music played on tapes, CDs, radio, etc.

2 – Dancing is prohibited even without music during this time frame.

3 – Items that require the blessing of Shehechyanu (for example: new fruit or new clothing) should be avoided. However, Shehechyanu is recited for a Brit Milah and Pidyon HaBen. A new fruit may be used during those times with the blessing of Shehechyanu, and afterwards the fruit is eaten with its proper blessing.

4 – During Shabbat one may recite Shehechyanu on new fruit or new clothing. It is better to be strict.

5 – During the 9 days, from Rosh Chodesh Av until after the Ta'anit, joyous forms of business or transactions are decreased, for example: purchasing items for a wedding or

for the house of newlyweds, as well as jewelry, new clothing, or new shoes.

6 – Some allow the purchase of furniture or electrical appliances (not for newlyweds). Those that are strict will be blessed.

7 – One may purchase jewelry, clothing, and furniture for a wedding only if it's possible that they will go up in price and he will end up paying more money if he waits.

8 – One may not paint his house during the nine days. If he began painting before Rosh Chodesh and will lose money on workers if he waits, he may finish the job.

9 – Sewing/tailoring new clothing during the nine days is forbidden.

Sponsors

*** **Mr. Setto Yaakov HaCohen, his wife Lyzett and their children.** Blessings and success for the entire family, Leilui Nishmat his mother **Sabrie Bat Galia a"h**, Amen. ***

Mr. Ezra Shasho HaLevi and his daughters: Lydi, Silva, Noura, and Tova. Blessings and success for the entire family, Leilui Nishmat his wife and their mother **Nina Sarah Bat Silva Sabour a"h**, Amen. ***

Blessed siblings: Avraham, Morris, Edward, Rimon, Esther, Berta, and Norma, of the Cohen Family. Blessings and success for the entire family, Leilui Nishmat their mother **Joul Bat Bahie 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. *** **R' Simon Goldstein, his wife Simmy, their parents, and their children.** Blessings and success for the entire family, Amen.

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