

Congregation

◆◆◆"Beth Yosef"◆◆◆

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

Rabbi Aharon Farhi

Parashat Vayishlah

13th Kislev 5785

Maqam Bayat

Issue #1098

Mr. Eliyahu Levy, President

Haftarat Hazon Ovadia

December 14th 2024

*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 5:13pm & Rabbenu Tam 5:43pm
Time for Talit 6:18am * Seasonal Hour 55 * Alot Hashahar 6:07am * Netz Hachama 7:13am
Weekday Minha 4:15pm * Earliest Time for Arbit 4:00pm * Tzet Hacoachavim 5:08pm * Chatzot 11:50
Latest Time for Morning Keriat Shema 8:52am * Latest Time for Morning Amidah 9:47am*

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There are quite a few details we can clarify regarding the reunion of the two twin brothers Yaakov and Esav after so many years. Rashi explains that the 'Malachim', messengers, that Yaakov sent with presents to Esav were 'Mamash', literally, Malachim, angels. By using the word *Mamash*, Rashi is hinting to the fact that it was Friday, Erev Shabbat. 'Mamash' is an acronym of *Mitah, Menorah, and Shulchan* – bed, lights, and table. On Erev Shabbat, we must make sure to clean our beds, light the candles, and set the table, all in honor of Shabbat, so that when the angels of Friday night visit our homes, they shower us with blessings. These were the same angels Yaakov sent on that Friday as messengers to Esav. Esav told Yaakov, "*Travel on and let us go – I will proceed alongside you*". Why did Esav advise twice? Yaakov declined and responded, "*...the children are tender and the nursing flocks and cattle are upon me... drive them hard for one day, then all the flocks will die*". At first he mentioned the burden of children, cattle, and sheep, but then afterwards he only mentioned that the sheep will die. Why the change? Also, why did he mention only 'one day'? "*Travel on and let us go*", Esav wanted to travel with him, but Yaakov answered that he could not travel during Shabbat. Esav then said "I will proceed alongside you", meaning that Yaakov should catch up to him after Shabbat on Sunday, but Yaakov explained that he could not

catch up in only 'one day' with the young children and the cattle, specifically because then the *young sheep* will die. He had recently been paid from Lavan for his work by collecting any sheep that were born either spotted or striped, speckled or ringed, and the sheep were really young compared to the rest of the livestock and the children. This is why he singled out the young sheep. May Hashem watch over us, Amen.

Insights on the Parasha

1 – Yaakov would not let the ministering angel of Esav leave until he blessed him. How could he ask an enemy that hates him for a blessing? Would it really be a blessing or perhaps a curse in disguise? Rashi explains that he didn't want his blessing, rather he wanted him to concede that the blessings from his father Yitzchak were indeed given to Yaakov and were not in any way supposed to be for Esav. The ministering angel of Esav explained that his name would no longer be Yaakov, rather his name would be Yisrael, no longer will it be said that the blessings came to him through deceit, as the name Yaakov was used by Esav to depict, but rather through authority, as his destiny will be that Hashem will reveal Himself to Yaakov in Beth-El and actually change his name. When Hashem changes his name and blesses him there, this ministering angel said that he will be present and

concede to the blessings as well. Yaakov did not want to wait until later and forced the ministering angel to concede to the blessings right there and then. *“You have striven with the Divine... and you have overcome”* – the ministering angel was blessing Yaakov with the power of *“The righteous decree and Hashem fulfills”*, and although Hashem decrees, He grants the righteous with the power to abolish the decree. (*Tzeror Hamor*)

2 – If the residents of the city of Shechem indeed performed a Brit Milah, how could Shimon and Levi then go out and kill them? How could the righteous children of Yaakov spill innocent blood? It is true that the Shevatim, the children of Yaakov, stipulated and instructed the people of Shechem to perform a Brit Milah, a circumcision on themselves. However, their circumcision would have been acceptable, except that they only intended to perform the circumcision in order to be able to satiate their desires, to marry the daughters of Yaakov’s family, but never to really accept the religion. They really intended to keep their idolatry, continue serving idols, and would therefore not really be converting, but would remain Goyim. If so, then despite their Brit Milah they were unacceptable, they simply were not truly converting, and Shimon and Levi were therefore free to exact revenge on them for what they did to their sister Dina. Yaakov their father then told them to remove the idolatry and hide them, buried in the ground. Why didn’t he instruct them to destroy the idolatry? So that if the other nations chased after them demanding justice, they could clearly explain that the idolatry was never destroyed by the people of Shechem, they clearly never really intended to convert at all and only wanted to take their women for themselves, which proves that their violation against Dina was completely wrong. As proof, all they needed to do was dig up the still intact idolatry and see for themselves. (*Rabbenu Ephraim*)

History in Brief

180 years after the Hurban, calendar year 250. A well-known Tanna during the times of Rabbenu Hakadosh was Bar Kapara. He learned by Rebi Tanhum and authored the Mishnayot Bar Kapara, over which Rav Yochanan and Reish Lakish would have many discussions. He wrote a Tosefta from which Rebbe asked many judgments, and he

called him a Zaken. One time he learned with the son of Rebbe, R’ Shimon Bar Rebbe, and the Shmaata was difficult for them. When Rebbe heard Bar Kapara say that there is no Rebbe in the world that understands this, he took offense to the comment. When Bar Kapara came to visit Rebbe, he turned him away as if he did not recognize him. Bar Kapara reprimanded himself for thirty days. One of his students was R’ Yehoshua Ben Levi, who quoted from his teacher, why is the blessings of the Cohanim written in the Torah next to the topic of a Nazir? Because just as a Nazir cannot drink wine, so too a Cohen who needs to bless the people should not drink wine. One time they brought to Bar Kapara an herb and a poultry dish. Bar Kapara gave permission to one student to recite a blessing, but the other student first recited a Shehakol on the poultry instead of Haadamah on the herb. The other student laughed at him. Bar Kapara was angry, but not at the one who recited the blessing, rather at the other student who laughed. Perhaps he enjoyed poultry so much, as if he never tasted it before, then for him reciting Shehakol on it took precedence over reciting Haadamah on the herb. Then he said, I am not angry with the student who laughed, but at the one who recited the blessing, because if you are not sure which blessing to recite first, you should ask the Zaken who is sitting in front of you for clarification in Halacha. Because Bar Kapara was angered by their actions, they both passed away within the year.

Health and Recovery

1- The juicier and softer the food, the quicker the body will digest and absorb the food. Such food digests and absorbs into the body quickly and easily. But after only a short period of time the person will then have to eat again. On the contrary, all food that is harder and thicker will nourish the body well and will delay digestion, making it take a longer time before being absorbed into the blood, delaying refreshed pangs of hunger. 2- Food that is bitter, sharp, or spicy will be less nourishing and filling than sweet and simpler food. 3- Oily foods are satisfying and filling immediately, but then immediately afterwards leaves the person feeling like he needs more food. A person must persist from often eating these kinds of food. 4- Chicken soup is the best for nourishment and health

recovery – very beneficial for those who are weak or ill. 5- Eating chicken improves memory and strengthens the mind. It also helps against constipation.

Mussar: Holiness of the Eyes

Our eyes are of the most important limbs within our bodies. One must sanctify his eyes and retain their holiness. One must be very cautious when he walks in the street, and should look away if he is tempted to glance at things that will desecrate his spiritual eyes. Women who dress immodestly are considered from the army of the evil Bilam. Bilam had advised King Balak to send the daughters of Moav to entice Bnei Yisrael immodestly and cause them to sin. That scheme for impurity and that source of unholy enticement exists still today. “*Do not turn after your hearts and eyes*” *Yeshaya Hanavi* addresses the issues concerning immodesty being performed in public and explains that ministering angels who descend to this world in order to perform certain tasks, upon seeing women not dressed properly, begin to cry out and scream to Hashem, requesting that He immediately punish those women for leading men to sin because of them! Therefore, all should ask Hashem for mercy, especially when leaving the house, kiss the Mezuzah and pray that He saves you from the constant dangers that threaten men. If you pray with tears over this matter, you are on the level of ministering angels! One who glances at these women in the street is damaging and dirtying his soul with wounds and stains which are extreme, and are very hard to remove. Fear Hashem and guard your eyes. May Hashem watch over us, Amen. (*Rav Nachman*)

Rishon LeSion:

Maran Hacham Ovadia Yossef 1921-2013

Hacham Ovadia in his youth at the age of nine stood before his Rebbe, Rabbi Shlomo Abo, and recited by heart Mishnayot Shabbat, Pesachim, Avot, Sukkah, Yoma, the second Perek of Gemara Baba Metzia ‘Shnayim Ochazim’, Perek Elu Metziot, Perek Hamaphkid, and Perek Hazahav. His Rebbe gave him Sefer Reshit Chochmah as a prize in order to learn it. In 1931, at the age of ten, his father R’ Yaakov took him to his birthplace in Baghdad Iraq to visit his grandfather who was still alive. Maran traveled through Damascus on the way to Baghdad. During those days the Jews were

respected in the eyes of the Arabs in Baghdad. They had many beautiful Yeshivot in Baghdad at the time. Unfortunately, not long afterwards, in 1940 the Germans came and slaughtered hundreds of Jews of all ages, even young children and pregnant mothers, during the holiday of Shavuot, all while Iraq was under the British Military control.

Story

When Shmuel Aryeh returned home, his wife told him that the General had personally visited in order to beg forgiveness from her husband, and asked that Shmuel Aryeh come visit him when he returned to the city. He was greatly relieved to be back home safely with his family, and was curious to know more about this amazing miracle. How did the General figure out that he was not the thief? When he entered the General’s office, everything was completely different than the last time he was there. The General greeted him very warmly, he sat him down on a comfortable chair, served him a drink, and treated him with great respect. He thanked him for the exceptional services he had been providing for his soldiers, filling them up with good food and drinks. How could he have ever accused such a wonderful selfless person of such a terrible crime?! This General was very strong, tough as nails, war-hardened, and feared by all. He had earned his highest rank over many years and was appointed by the leader himself. He told over his story to Shmuel Aryeh, from when he was a simple soldier starting out, throughout his years in service and combat, step by step as he rose to the top. He had immense pride and haughtiness, that when he was told his prized ring had been stolen, he wasn’t thinking straight and vowed immediate revenge.

Laws: Barech Alenu

- 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.

2 – If afterwards you have a vessel to use for Netillat Yadayim, you should wash your hands in the alternating fashion three times, but you cannot then recite Netillat Yadayim.

3 – If you did not sleep at all throughout the night, you can wash Netillat Yadayim but you do not recite a blessing.

4 – If you only slept for a very short amount of time during the night, or you did not sleep in a bed, some say you can recite a blessing after washing Netillat Yadayim.

5 – If you sleep with your hands covered, i.e. wearing gloves, then you wash your hands Netillat Yadayim in the morning but do not recite a blessing.

6 – Even if you went to sleep after midnight, but slept regularly, then you wash your hands Netillat Yadayim in the morning and recite a blessing.

7 – If you went to sleep before midnight, but woke up before midnight, you wash without a blessing. If you recited a blessing, there is an opinion to rely upon. If you are going back to sleep right away, then there is no need to wash your hands at all, until you wake up again in the morning.

Sponsors

*** *Mrs. Nina Romano, her husband Marco, and their children.* Blessings and success for the entire family, Amen. *** *Mr. David Aharon Farhi, his wife Suzy, and their children.* Blessings and success for the entire family, Amen. *** *Mr. Aboud Nahum, his wife Sabah, and their children.* Blessings and success for the entire family, Refuah Shelemah for their son *Rephael Ben Sabah*, Amen. *** *Mr. Eli Levy, his wife Becky, and their children.* Blessings, health, and success for the entire family, Refuah Shelemah for *Yosef Ben Rivka*, and Refuah Shelemah for *Amram Ben Rivka*, Amen. *** *Mr. Sonny Avraham Nouseiri, his wife Berta, and their children.* Blessings and success for the entire family, Amen. *** *Mrs. Touni Kassab and her children: Dr. Jack, Soli, Bella, and Maggie.* Blessings and success for the entire family, Leilui Nishmat her husband and their father *Toufic Baruch Ben Zarife a"h*, Amen. *** *Mr. Edmon Nahum, his wife Lina, and their children.* Blessings and success for the entire family, Leilui Nishmat the pure soul of the young child *Yosef Chaim Ben Olga 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.

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