

Congregation

◆◆◆◆ "Beth Yosef" ◆◆◆◆

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

Rabbi Aharon Farhi

Parashat Vayhi

11th Tevet 5785

Maqam Hijaz

Issue #1102

Mr. Eliyahu Levy, President

Haftarat Vayikrevu Yeme

January 11th 2025

*Candle Lighting 4:30pm * Shekiah 4:48pm * Shir Hashirim 4:25pm followed by Minha Friday Night
Shaharit Shabbat 8:15am * Minha Shabbat 4:15pm * Shabbat Ends 5:35pm & Rabbenu Tam 6:05pm
Time for Talit 6:23am * Seasonal Hour 56 * Alot Hashahar 6:12am * Netz Hachama 7:19am
Weekday Minha 4:30pm * Earliest Time for Arbit 4:18pm * Tzet Hacoachavim 5:28pm * Chatzot 12:03
Latest Time for Morning Keriat Shema 9:00am * Latest Time for Morning Amidah 9:56am*

Dear Readers:

Throughout the year 2024, we were not able to cover all of the expenses for this weekly Torah publication and incurred a total deficit of \$7,600.

A very generous donor with a good heart has now sponsored \$5,200.

*May Hashem bless **Mr. Edmon Mordechai Guindi HaCohen, his wife Margo, their parents, and their children** with spiritual and physical blessings and success in everything, Amen.*

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

Before passing away, Yaakov Avinu commanded his children the following: Levi should not help carry his coffin out of Egypt, because his Shevet will one day carry the holy Aron with the Luhot. Yosef also should not help carry his coffin, because he is the king, but his sons Menashe and Ephraim who are to be considered equal as one of the Shevatim should each carry the coffin instead of Yosef and Levi. No Egyptians will be allowed to carry the coffin. No other grandchildren will be allowed either, because their mothers were from Canaan. The Shevatim were married to women from Canaan, and although they each first married their twin sisters, they did not have children with them, and therefore had to marry women from Canaan in order to procreate. Shimon married his sister Dina and had children, but in order not to cause jealousy amongst the grandchildren, his children from

Dina were also not allowed to carry the coffin. Only Menashe and Ephraim were allowed to carry the coffin as grandchildren, because they were the sons of a king, Yosef, and also were considered as one of the Shevatim, carrying instead of Yosef and Levi, so they would not cause jealousy. Why couldn't Levi and Yosef carry the coffin? The question is even greater regarding Levi, because Levi himself would never actually carry the holy Aron, his descendants would. What's more, Moshe Rabbenu, who was the leader and from Shevet Levi, actually carried the coffin of Yosef when Bnei Yisrael were redeemed and left Egypt. We must therefore explain that the reason is deeper. Carrying the coffin of Yaakov Avinu out of Egypt would signal the start of our nation's servitude in Egypt. Yosef and Levi could not participate in the beginning of the exile, because they were above the exile. Yosef

was the king, he was above Egypt, it could not be that Egypt would be above him in any sense. Exile cannot come through him. Levi as well, who lived the longest from all his brothers, was the last line of defense against the actual slavery beginning. As long as he was alive, the exile did not take effect. He was above the exile. Therefore, Yosef and Levi could not participate in carrying the coffin of Yaakov Avinu out of Egypt, which was the beginning of the exile. May Hashem watch over us, Amen.

Insights on the Parasha

1 – When Yaakov Avinu blessed his son Asher, he said: *From Asher – his bread will have richness, and he will provide kingly delicacies.* If Asher fulfills his role and provides spiritual delicacies in honor of our King, by assisting and strengthening the learning of Torah, then his bread will have richness and he will not need to worry about his livelihood. It says *from* Asher, since the reward he will enjoy in this world is not drawn from the principle, but only *from* the fruits of his Mitzvot, while the principle of reward remains intact for the next world.

History in Brief

180 years after the Hurban, calendar year 250. Rabbi Shimon Ben Halafta was obese. One day he was particularly hot and went and sat on a mountain boulder to cool himself off. He said to his daughter: My daughter, fan me with a fan, and as a gift I will give you packages of spikenard. In the meantime, a strong wind blew. He said: How much do I owe to Hashem, the overseer of this wind, who grants it to me for free! Rabbi Shimon was poor and prayed to heaven for Parnassah. A precious stone came down to him from heaven, but he returned it to heaven, because he did not want to lose out on his portion in Olam Haba. Rebi Chiya was his colleague and wanted to help Rabbi Shimon. He hired him to collect his olives in the field and he would pay him five percent of the olives he collected. One time Rabbi Shimon was traveling and he encountered two hungry lions that wanted to eat him. He raised his eyes to the heavens and prayed: Master of the world! *The*

lions roar for prey, seeking their food from Hashem. He quoted the words of King David (Tehillim 104:21) and Heaven responded by raining down two slabs of meat. One of them was consumed by the lions and they left behind the other. It was this meat which Rabbi Shimon brought to the Bet Midrash and inquired about its Kashrut. The Ruling: *No impure food comes down from Heaven.* (*Sanhedrin 59b*) They enjoyed the meat. He once met the Angel of Death and asked him when his time to leave the world would come. He responded that he had no jurisdiction over Rabbi Shimon or his colleagues, so long as they are learning Torah, performing Mitzvot, and doing Tzedakah, which will increase years to their lives. He would teach: those who learn Torah but do not fulfill its words will be punished more harshly than those who do not learn Torah. He would teach: The vessel that Hashem uses to grant us blessings is the vessel created through Shalom, peace, as it says, *Hashem blesses His nation through peace.*

Health and Recovery

Between the ages of 18-22, the body finalizes its growth process. Sleeping properly and living a healthy lifestyle during those years can directly affect the rest of your life. Sleeping earlier and waking early will give the body the strength and energy it needs to finalize its growth into a mature and healthy adult. Sleep on your left side, straightening your upper body, not bending it like a half moon. Make sure to use a good pillow that raises your head comfortably. Vitamin D helps bone growth. Smoking cigarettes and tobacco is very damaging to the health of the body. All medical professionals warn that the negative effects to the heart, lungs, liver, kidneys, and all areas of the body can be terribly detrimental and eventually fatal. Be smart and distance from smoking. Don't try it, don't think about it, it will only lead to damage and problems. If you are already smoking, it will be a challenge, but you must immediately reduce how much you smoke each day. If you smoke 10 a day, for a week only smoke 9. The following week reduce it to 8, and then the next week reduce it to 7, all in stride, helping your body

slowly adjust to less over time. The body naturally does not need to smoke cigarettes, and it can be trained to once again not rely on cigarettes. The ultimate goal is to completely stop smoking over time, and never again pick up another cigarette. Protect your health so you can live a better life.

Rishon LeSion:

Maran Hacham Ovadia Yossef 1921-2013

After Purim in 1931, the young Hacham Ovadia returned to Israel with his father. There was no Yeshiva that could accommodate him. His father returned him to learn in the Yeshiva of R' Shlomo Aboud zt"l, but the Rabbanim in the Yeshiva explained that he was too advanced in his learning to be in the class, and he must instead go to a Yeshiva with older Bachurim. At the age of only ten, his father took him to Yeshivat Porat Yosef. Established by Rabbenu Yosef Chaim zt"l, it was a large Yeshiva for serious Sephardic Bachurim whose souls thirsted for Torah learning. Great Sages emerged from that Yeshiva throughout the years, who helped our nation push away the darkness of our exile and spread Torah learning throughout the world. Without Yeshivat Porat Yosef developing our spiritual leaders, Torah learning would have been forgotten from the Sephardic communities, heaven forbid. Hacham Ovadia learned there for three months until the end of 1931 to the delight of the Rabbanim and all the scholars. Because the Yeshiva was located in the Old City, far from his home, and they were afraid to leave him there, his parents returned Hacham Ovadia home and arranged for him to learn with Rabbi Shlomo Abo, from the beginning of 1932. But after a few months, Hacham Ovadia returned to Yeshivat Porat Yosef where he grew in Torah over the next sixteen years until the end of 1957. He then went to Egypt.

Mussar: *Derech Eretz*

Derech Eretz is beloved before Hashem, for nothing can continue in existence without it. One who lacks this important feature and characteristic is worthless, lost in the desert and

wilderness. 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 will even consider him 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 for 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 continued existence depends on kindness and care, regardless of the person in need. 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.

Story

During a routine inspection of the barracks one night, the General and his soldiers heard cries. They found a soldier dead on the floor, and another soldier on knees crying over the dead body, swearing that he had not killed him. He had only just discovered the murdered body when they entered. The soldiers immediately checked if there was anything they could do to save the fallen, but after inspection declared that he was dead. They began investigating the other

soldier who was trembling with fear. In his state of trepidation, he admitted that he and his dead friend had conspired to steal the General's ring, and believed that if they were able to get away with the crime, the blame would be put on the Jewish innkeeper Shmuel Aryeh, as he was always nearby when the General removed his ring to wash his hands to sit down to eat. They were waiting until the Jew would be sentenced to death and executed, and the case would be closed, before making their next move of finding a buyer.

Laws

1 – If one awakes after *Chatzot Layla*, before *Alot Hashahar*, he washes his hands with a blessing. If he goes back to sleep, he then does not say another blessing when he washes his hands upon waking up.

2 – If one sleeps during the day, when he wakes he does not recite a blessing after washing, since sleep during the day is considered just a nap. If he only sleeps for a short amount of time, or does not sleep in a bed, then he does not have to wash his hands at all during the day.

3 – Sleeping during Shabbat day is recommended and encouraged, to fulfill the Mitzvah of enjoying Shabbat, as the three letters of the word Shabbat can be acronyms for: *Shinah B'Shabbat Taanug*.

4 – If someone enters the bathroom to get something, but not to actually use the bathroom, then he should wash his hands without a blessing, as there is impurity in a bathroom.

5 – Washing hands should not be done in the bathroom, rather use a sink outside of the bathroom, however if there is no other option then one can use the sink in the bathroom.

6 – If one enters a bathroom during Yom Kippur not in order to use it, then he does not wash his hands, but if it is time to pray, or close to the time to pray, then he washes until his knuckles without a blessing.

Sponsors

*** *Mrs. Rosette Cohen and her children*. Blessings and success for the entire family, wishing everyone a Happy New Year filled with love and peace, Amen. *** *Mr. Albir Shami, his*

wife Marcelle, and their children. Blessings and success for the entire family, Mazal Tov to their son-in-law *Aharon and their daughter Adele* on the Bar Mitzvah of their son *Avraham*, Mabrouk, Amen. *** *Mr. Larry Hefes, his wife Karen, and their children*. Blessings and success for the entire family, Refuah Shelemah for his father *Avraham Ben Dora*, Amen. *** *Mrs. Linda Guindi, her husband Mordechai, and their children*. Blessings and success for the entire family, Leilui Nishmat her father *Yosef Shasho Ben Frieda a"h*, and Leilui Nishmat her mother *Rachel Bat Mazal a"h*, Amen. *** *Mrs. Adele Hudeidi and her children*. Blessings and success for the entire family, Leilui Nishmat her husband and their father *Chaim Ben Farha 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 Sabout 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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