

Congregation

◆◆◆"Beth Yosef"◆◆◆

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

Rabbi Aharon Farhi

Parashat Vaera

25th Tevet 5785

Maqam Nawa

Issue #1104

Mr. Eliyahu Levy, President

Haftarat Ko Amar

January 25th 2025

*Candle Lighting 4:46pm * Shekiah 5:04pm * Shir Hashirim 4:35pm followed by Minha Friday Night
Shaharit Shabbat 8:15am * Minha Shabbat 4:30pm * Shabbat Ends 5:47pm & Rabbenu Tam 6:17pm
Time for Talit 6:13am * Seasonal Hour 59 * Alot Hashahar 6:01am * Netz Hachama 7:12am
Weekday Minha 4:50pm * Earliest Time for Arbit 4:32pm * Tzet Hacoachavim 5:42pm * Chatzot 12:08
Latest Time for Morning Keriat Shema 8:58am * Latest Time for Morning Amidah 9:57am*

Thursday January 30th will be Rosh Hodesh Shevat

Shovevim Fasting:

Thursday January 23rd fast starts 6:02am and ends 5:28pm

Monday January 27th fast starts 5:59am and ends 5:33pm

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The generous and kind-hearted **Mr. Chaim Allaham HaCohen, his wife Violet, and their children.** May Hashem bless the entire family with spiritual & physical success in everything, Leilui Nishmat his father **Yosef Ben Farha HaCohen a"h**, Amen.

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

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**Vaad Tehilim Torah c/o R' A. Farhi
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Please do not read this bulletin during Tefillah or Keriat Hatorah

Moshe was the messenger from Hashem to bring forth the redemption of Bnei Yisrael from Mitzraim, and his brother Aharon would speak on his behalf. When Moshe was a baby, his mouth was injured during an incident which limited his ability to speak properly, and he therefore needed his brother Aharon's assistance. How did this happen? As Batya raised Moshe in Pharaoh's palace, there were times when Moshe would sit on Pharaoh's lap. One day, as he sat there, Moshe reached up, took Pharaoh's crown off his head, and threw it to the ground. His ministers and advisers warned Pharaoh that this was not a coincidence, but a bad omen. This baby would one day topple his kingdom. He discussed this with Yitro, Iyov,

and Bilam. Yitro said that the youngster was just acting childish, nothing more. Bilam declared that the youngster deserved the death penalty for his actions. Iyov recommended a test. He brought a plate with two items on it, a gold coin and a hot coal. The hot coal glowed, which should impress a youngster, and the gold coin was regular and should not interest the youngster. If he takes the gold coin, then he knows better and should be sentenced to death. But if he takes the hot coal, then he clearly does not know any better. Moshe reached out to take the gold coin, but an angel pushed his hand to the hot coal, saving his life, but burning his hand, which Moshe quickly placed in his mouth to cool off, causing his mouth to burn and his

speech to become impeded from the injury. Why did this happen? When he was a baby, Batya tried to hire women to nurse Moshe, but Moshe refused to drink their milk because it was not from a Jewish woman. Since drops of their impure milk touched his tongue, he was unfit to speak with Hashem, unless his mouth was purified through fire. But why must he have a speech impediment? The Torah wanted to avoid anyone claiming that Moshe himself had the power and ability to redeem Bnei Yisrael from Egypt. He was a messenger from Hashem who could not do anything without Hashem's guidance and power. He therefore was not the one to speak, and required the assistance of his brother Aharon to speak on his behalf, as they were both messengers from Hashem just fulfilling their missions. Everything was from Hashem, performed exactly according to Hashem's plan, and Hashem redeemed us from Mitzraim through Moshe and Aharon. May Hashem watch over us, Amen.

Insights on the Parasha

1 – The Pasuk says before the plague of hail, *whoever in service feared the word of Hashem brought his servants and his livestock into the house*. We can understand this Pasuk as hinting an important lesson in life: One who is truly a servant of Hashem must behave with modesty and humility, by bringing his *servants*, referring to his service, his Torah and Mitzvot, and his *livestock*, his possessions, referring to his holy accomplishments, into his house, meaning he should conduct all his actions with privacy and humility, that he should perform only for the sake of heaven and not in order to glorify himself through his spiritual growth by displaying it all for others to witness. The Pasuk continues: *those who did not take the word of Hashem to heart – left his servants and livestock in the field*. Meaning, those who publicly display their spiritual growth in order to be glorified publicly, he is compared to Esav, who was a man of the field. (*Divre Yisrael*)

History in Brief

180 years after the Hurban, calendar year 250. Rav Oshaya was a colleague of Rabbenu Hakadosh. He was the son of Rebi Chama, and a student of Bar Kapara. He also learned from Rebi Chiya Hagadol. Rebi Yochanan learned from him

for eighteen years. One Purim Rebbe sent him Mishloah Manot. Rebi Yochanan said: when we learned from Rav Oshaya, we would sit four by four within an Amah. Rebbe said that Rav Oshaya in his generation was like Rebi Meir in his generation. Just as Rebi Meir's colleagues could not reach his knowledge, so too Rav Oshaya's colleagues. His mind and heart were open vastly to receive the wisdom of the Torah, like Rebi Elazar Ben Shamua. Rav Oshaya was counted amongst the first Amoraim of Eretz Yisrael, who compiled the Beraaitot and Toseftot. The Sages teach us, any Beraita that was not learned in the Bet Midrash of Rebi Chiya and Rav Oshaya is not accurate. Rav Oshaya taught the thirteen Avot Nezikin.

Health and Recovery

In our generations, factory owners, with the development of technology, have studied and developed various types of synthetic and chemical materials that influence the tongue sensors and make them experience different flavors. These are the variety of ingredients and flavors that we see written on labels of industrial products. For example, you can make apple juice without having a hint of an apple, and the tongue will taste an apple, so you interfere with creation and trick your health. The industry is becoming more and more sophisticated and is learning how to influence taste sensors more and more, with the goal of getting more and more people to eat the same products. Perhaps you will ask yourself why Hashem, who is omnipotent, did not naturally make us sweets like those produced in factories. Isn't it much easier to make a candy than to make a fig? The answer is that Hashem takes care of us like a father, with care and consideration, and He therefore gave us fruits with reasonable sweetness so we would eat enough but not too much, and also gave us the sweetness of the fruit with a concentration that is not strong and accompanied by fruit fibers, so that the sweetness will be best digested while our bodies remain undamaged. If the fruit were as sweet as all the industrially produced sweets then we would not stop eating them and we would be harmed. Therefore we must overcome the physical temptation and prevent any harm to our health. King Solomon compared the troubles that result from eating wrongly, and the troubles that ensued as a result of serious

transgressions caused by the tongue, as follows: “Death and life can be decided by the tongue”.

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 even from his mother’s womb, from before he was even born! There are countless favors Hashem does for us each and every moment, most of which we are unaware, and unfortunately we do not even recognize 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.

Our Leaders and Sages:

Rav Nissim Indibo HaCohen

The chief rabbi of Damascus was born in 1857 and was granted longevity. He died at the age of 114 years, with a mind that was clear until his last day, living in close proximity of Bet Knesset Shevet

Achim in Damascus. He was one of the students of Rabbi Yitzhak Abulafia, who was born in Damascus in 1830 and was appointed chief rabbi of Damascus in 1873. He was 43 years old when he officiated as rabbinat. He wrote four books on the parts of the Shulchan Aruch, titled Pnei Yitzchak. In the last year he went to the Holy Land and settled in Tiberias. He passed away in 1910 at the age of 80. His student Rabbi Nissim served as Dayan in the Damascus court. When he died in 1910, he became the chief rabbi of Damascus. He wrote an introduction to the book: Yaskil Abadi, written by Rabbi Ovadia Hedaya of Aleppo. Rabbi Nissim was highly valued by his community and even by the gentiles and the authorities in Damascus. When the Syrian government issued a death sentence to the Israeli spy Eli Cohen, of blessed memory, a special permission was given to Hacham Nissim to visit him in prison and confide with him before his death. On his last day he asked his disciple Rabbi Yitzchak Asa to go home, and after an hour Rabbi Asa hurried to go to work, but Hacham Nissim persuaded him to stay. He told him to take all his sons out of the house, and he then recited confession for himself, read the Shema, and passed away on the seventh of Shevat in 1973. May his merits protect us, Amen.

Rishon LeSion:

Maran Hacham Ovadia Yossef 1921-2013

While learning in Yeshivat Porat Yosef, Hacham Ovadia became one of the favorite students of Hacham Ezra Attieh, as well as all the other Rabbanim of the Yeshiva. During the years 1932-1934, he learned from R' Yosef Shalush and R' Moshe Ades. Who was R' Shalush? He was a Tzaddik, Gomel Chassadim Tovim, and a big Yirei Hashem. He passed away in 1960. R' Moshe Ades was the son of R' Avraham Ades, known for his righteousness and excellence in Torah. He was very close with Hacham Ezra. When Hacham Ezra ran away to Egypt from the Turkish government, R' Ades went with him. They served together in the Bet Din for many years. Since its beginning in 1923, R' Ades taught in Porat Yosef for more than thirty-five years. When R' Ades was sick, as he was often suffering in pain, and he couldn't come to Yeshiva, Hacham Ovadia would take his place teaching his students Torah. He continued doing so after R' Ades passed away in 1960. The

Rabbanit Avigail, wife of the great R' Nissim Azran, grandchild of R' Yosef Shalush mother-in-law of the Rishon LeSion R' Mordechai Eliyahu, would sell the Sefarim of her husband R' Nissim after he passed away. Hacham Ovadia came to purchase a Sefer from her, but she gave it to him for free, because she knew from her husband the greatness of Hacham Ovadia. She asked him to bless her with a long life, and his blessing was fulfilled.

Laws

1 – After coming out of the bathroom, if he actually used the bathroom, then he washes three times Netillat Yadayim, but if he did not use the bathroom, then he only needs to wash one time with a Reviit.

2 – If he only put his hands into the bathroom, not his body, then he only washes with a Reviit. If he only put one hand in, for example to open the light, then he only washes that one hand, unless if he was in middle of a meal then he washes both hands.

3 – Food may not be brought into a bathroom, a bath house, or a Mikveh.

4 – If one has food and cannot leave it outside, he can cover it up with cloth or paper, or put it in his pocket, and then he can enter with it.

5 – If he entered without covering the food at all, if he can wash it, like fruit, he should wash it three times. If he cannot wash it without ruining it, like bread and cake, then he can still eat it after the fact.

Sponsors

*** **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 Swed Ben Badia 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 HaCohen Ben Farha a”h**, Amen. *** **Mr. Yosef Ishay, his wife Suzette, and their children.** Blessings, health, and success for the entire family, Amen. *** **Mrs. Salma Flah and her children.** Blessings and success for the entire family, Amen. *** **Mr. Mordechai Lozieh HaCohen and his children.** Blessings and success for the entire family, Amen. *** **The Farhi Family.** Blessings and success for the entire family, Leilui Nishmat their mother **Sarah Bat Salha a”h**, Amen. *** **Mrs. Linda Guindi Shasho, her husband Mordechai HaCohen, and their children.** Blessings and success for the entire family, Leilui Nishmat her father **Yosef 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.

The **Allaham HaCohen Family** invites everyone to **Mishmarah** this Shabbat Parashat Vaera in Beth Yosef at 2:30pm Leilui Nishmat their father **Yosef Ben Farha a”h**.

*This week's sponsorship total is \$3000
230,200 website visits!*

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