

Congregation

◆◆◆"Beth Yosef"◆◆◆

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

**Rabbi Aharon Farhi**  
*Parashat Shemini*  
28<sup>th</sup> Nissan 5785

*Maqam Husseni*  
Issue #1115

**Mr. Eliyahu Levy, President**  
*Haftarat Vayosef Od*  
April 26<sup>th</sup> 2025

*Candle Lighting 7:27pm \* Shekiah 7:45pm \* Shir Hashirim 7:00pm followed by Minha Friday Night  
Shaharit Shabbat 8:15am \* Minha Shabbat 7:10pm \* Shabbat Ends 8:28pm & Rabbenu Tam 8:58pm  
Time for Talit 4:41am \* Seasonal Hour 80 \* Alot Hashahar 4:25am \* Netz Hachama 6:01am  
Weekday Minha 7:00pm \* Earliest Time for Arbit 6:43pm \* Tzet Hacoachavim 8:23pm \* Chatzot 12:53  
Latest Time for Morning Keriat Shema 8:25am \* Latest Time for Morning Amidah 9:45am*

***Monday April 28<sup>th</sup> and Tuesday April 29<sup>th</sup> will be Rosh Hodesh Iyar***

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The generous and good-hearted ***Mr. Yechezkel Cohen, his wife Bella, and their children.***  
Spiritual and physical blessings and success for the entire family, Mazal Tov to their son-in-law  
***Mr. Yaakov Shalom and his wife Tina,*** on the birth of a son, Mabrouk, 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

This week we read in the Parasha about a powerful occurrence, a terrible tragedy that took place within our nation – the passing of Nadab and Abihu, the sons of Aharon HaCohen. This happened during an outstanding time for our nation, and caused an interruption to the historic celebratory proceedings. It was a very wonderful day for the *Nation of the Desert*, Rosh Chodesh Nissan, the day that the Mishkan was inaugurated, the day that Aharon HaCohen brought the first sacrifices to Hashem on behalf of him and the nation, the day Aharon lifted his hands and blessed the nation as a Cohen. The nation was experiencing a blessed time in history. Moshe and Aharon entered the Ohel Moed and recited a special prayer to Hashem, that Hashem rest His holy Shechinah upon the nation, and renew the treaty between Hashem and His nation that had been blemished through the sin of the Golden Calf. When the two brothers came out of the Mishkan, they gazed upon the nation that surrounded them and blessed them from Hashem. At that moment, the glory of Hashem was revealed to the nation, and a fire descended and accepted the sacrifice. They knew then that their repentance was accepted, that their sin was forgiven, and the barriers set forth between them and their Father in heaven had been taken down. They then began to sing a holy melody, engrossed in

happiness like the day the heaven and earth were created. Suddenly! So suddenly and unexpected, death came and prevented the powerful happiness from continuing. The children of Aharon, the special beloved boys, were suddenly taken away from the nation, right before their eyes. What happened? The Pasuk states their sin clearly, but let it be understood that their intentions were good, and they were loved by Hashem. They had acted out of happiness and love, and only wished to increase the joy and celebration. They mistakenly believed that there was an opportunity for their personal sacrifices, to enhance the holiness and happiness. However, they did not realize that the Cohanim are still within the nation and do not bring sacrifices only because of their status. We all stand before Hashem. Suddenly, ever so suddenly and unexpectedly, our nation experienced a terribly sad twist in history that we endure even today. As in all cases of wrong, there is an obligation on everyone now to prevent a continuity or repetition of the same mistake. We must realize the importance of acting with the congregation as a whole, in unity, and together advancing in spirituality and service to Hashem. A leader must not force his own aspirations of stringencies on the congregation, he should not be overly demanding of the people, and he should not

be too strict and punish anyone who dares not listen to everything he says. A leader must follow the customs of the congregation and work with the people to help them grow and improve at a normal pace. May Hashem watch over us, Amen.

### **Insights on the Parasha**

**1** – *Vayidom Aharon*, Aharon was silent. He reacted like a stone, void of feeling and emotion, like a Domem, thereby accepting upon himself the judgment of Hashem. There are four levels: a Domem, or non-living (i.e. stone), a Tzomeach, or living (i.e. plant or vegetation), a Chai, living being (i.e. animal), and Medaber, speaking (i.e. a human). All incur injury and feel damage, except a Domem, a stone which feels nothing and doesn't incur injury. So too, Aharon accepted his situation without complaint, without injury, without feeling, like a stone.

**2** – An earthenware vessel can only become impure from the inside to make impure what is inside, but it does not become impure from the outside of the vessel. The reason is because the earthenware vessel is basically worthless and is only as valuable as its ability to hold whatever is added into it, which gives the earthenware vessel purpose and value. A metal vessel, on the other hand, has actual value on its own and therefore can become impure even from the outside. We as people must realize that because we come from the ground, we are like earthenware vessels, which will one day be returned to the ground, and we therefore are likewise only as valuable as what is held within us, our holy soul and our spiritual growth. That is our true value.

### **History in Brief**

*190 years after the Hurban, calendar year 260.* When Rebi Elazar, son of Rebi Shimon Bar Yohai, reached Bar Mitzvah age, his father made him a great feast and said about him: "On this day, a holy soul descended into the body of my son Rebi Elazar". He married the daughter of Rebi Shimon Bar Rebi Yossi. He was a very large obese man who ate a lot of food. He asked heaven to bring pain and suffering upon his large body, provided that it does not interrupt his learning of Torah or his prayers. The sufferings would come upon him at night, and he would then send them away in the morning. Every night his wife would place sixty linens under him, and then in the morning she would take them out from under him, and they would all be full of blood and puss that had flowed out of him due to the suffering. Every night he would say: "My brothers and companions, come upon me", and in the morning he would say to them: "Go now to yourselves, for I want to study Torah without interruption". Once, his wife

overheard him say to his suffering: "Come, come". She said to him: "Are you bringing them upon yourself?!" She immediately left him. One time, there were sixty ships sailing on the sea, when suddenly some strong winds blew, and the ships began to sink into the sea. Immediately the passengers stood up and prayed to Hashem: "Master of the world, save us in the merit of Rebi Elazar son of Rebi Shimon." Immediately the sea halted its fury and they were saved from death. When they came back from the sea in peace, they went to his house and gave him sixty bags of gold as a reward. Once, his wife said to her daughter: "Go, check on your father, find out what he is doing now and who is giving him food?" When his daughter came, he said to her, "Go, tell your mother that the Pasuk is fulfilled through me: "She was like merchant ships, from afar bringing bread". For many years he endured suffering, and all the world gained through the merit of his suffering.

### **Health and Recovery**

**1** – Combing your hair is healthy and worthwhile to do daily, while it is wet not dry, especially after awakening. **2** – One is obligated to wash his body regularly, at least twice a week. Washing strengthens the body, cleanses and prevents sicknesses, and improves overall health. One should bathe/shower on Friday in honor of Shabbat. **3** – Bathing and showering should be done with warm/hot water. Increase showering in the summer, and you can make do with less often in the winter. **4** – First rinse your hair and wash your head, then wash the rest of the body. Rinsing after washing can be done with water that is not warm, but the head should only be washed and rinsed with warm water.

### **Mussar: Shalom Bayit (Peace at Home)**

Every person is able and obligated to create an atmosphere of peace and paradise at home with his family. Love and affection should be felt in the air. If one is successful, then he will be at peace with Hashem as well. When a husband and wife are friendly and affectionate with one another, then they have 'Shalom', peace, which is also 'Shelemut', completeness. A couple is compared to fire and water. When they are at peace, then the heavens are at peace as well, and Hashem takes pride and glory from such a household, a family that even affects the holy angels above. The worlds are united through peace. Heaven forbid, if the opposite transpires and fights fill the household, then curses, pain, suffering, and evil are unleashed, and bitter times hit the family. They are destined for Gehinam as the 'fires' heat and evaporate the 'waters', and the 'waters' extinguish the 'fires' within their family. Poverty, heretic dealings, and deceitfulness are

then brought about as a result. Heaven forbid if divorce should occur as a result of their fights, then their bond with heaven is broken, which is then the source of many problems that occur upon the land. Therefore, everyone must learn to forgive and forget. Do not hold a grudge; rather, help each other improve. Increase the honor and care that is provided for one another, for then the Shechinah will rest upon your household and fill it with blessings and happiness, Amen.

### **Rishon LeSion:**

#### ***Maran Hacham Ovadia Yossef 1921-2013***

Sometimes, when Gaon Abba Shaul was absent from the Yeshiva, Hacham Ovadia would ask one of the young boys to accompany him as they walked through the city. The accompanying boy would read from a small Gemara and test Hacham Ovadia. Who was one of these young men? The Rishon LeSion Gaon Hacham Mordechai Eliyahu zt"l. Even when the entire Yeshiva was closed for three days due to the holiday of Purim, Hacham Ovadia spent his time writing a commentary on Megillat Esther, and a commentary on the Piyyut "Mi Kamocha" (*Who is like you, there is none like you*) which is recited on Shabbat Zachor by Sephardic communities. Hacham Ovadia did not know what a "day-off" from studies was, and as his friends, many other students, and his family members attested about him: "Our Rabbi never went on vacation". Once, his friends and students asked him to study a tractate of Gemara every month. Every Rosh Hodesh he held a Seudat Siyum for the congregation. One time, Hacham Ovadia said, "It would be a shame on me if I do not finish the tractate that I started that month." At first, he began with small tractates, starting the months with the smaller ones and finishing with the larger ones. He would finish about three hundred and sixty-five pages of Gemara each year, in addition to his other studies, as well as the daily "Daf Yomi" which was obligatory to him.

### ***Story***

R' Chaim's wife told him to travel with their daughter and visit the great Tzaddik R' Noam Elimelech, who was known to help cure those who were mysteriously sick through the power of his holy prayers. She was confident that the Rabbi would bring forth a salvation for their daughter. R' Chaim told his wife that he didn't doubt the holy power of the Rabbi, but such a long journey would cost him so much time away from his precious daily Torah learning. The loss would be guaranteed, while the cure was questionable. How could he give up a definite for a chance? He therefore continued his learning and did not go. However, after a few more days he realized that his daughter was

becoming deathly ill, and the situation was serious enough that he had no choice but to go visit R' Noam Elimelech. His wife prepared everything he would need for the journey, and the father and daughter set out together on their way. As they rode in the wagon, the father continued learning from his Sefarim, while the daughter rested, lying down, wrapped tightly in blankets. R' Elimelech had an excellent scholarly brother, who served as chief rabbi in his city, halfway in the journey between his city and the city of his brother R' Elimelech, the distant city of Lizhensk. When R' Chaim Leib arrived in the city of R' Elimelech's brother, he reasoned with himself that perhaps the effort and the long journey all the way to R' Elimelech's city was unnecessary. He decided to visit R' Elimelech's brother first and ask him whether it was indeed necessary to give up more of his time that could be well spent on his Torah learning and prayers and continue on his journey on the road to Lizhensk. Would his daughter perhaps find some relief for her sickness there? When he went into the Rabbi and asked his question, he was advised: "It is not worth abandoning Torah study, go back and return home."

### **Laws: *Sefirat HaOmer***

- 1** – Women are exempt from Sefirat HaOmer and may not count with a blessing. According to the 'Sod', it's better if women do not count at all.
- 2** – There is a Mitzvah of Chinuch to train your son who is under 13 to count the Sefirat HaOmer. They may even recite the blessing, and continue doing so even if a day is missed, since it is for Chinuch. This does not apply to those over 13.
- 3** – The time to count is 37 minutes after Shekiah, after Tzet Hacoachavim, continued throughout the night. In Shul, with a Minyan, we count after Shekiah with a Beracha.
- 4** – One who forgot to count at night and remembered in the day counts without a blessing, but continues to count with a blessing from then on.
- 5** – If one is not sure if he counted the correct day, he may continue counting with a Beracha.
- 6** – One who is unsure of the number and can't clarify it, counts both numbers without a blessing, and continues to count the rest of the nights the correct number with a blessing.
- 7** – One who told someone else the number of days but not the number of weeks after the time to count already arrived may still count with a blessing since he didn't count the weeks.
- 8** – If one says *Mashiv Haruach* instead of *Morid Hatal* and realizes: in middle of the Beracha – goes back to *Atah Gibor*. After *Berachat Mechayeh Hametim* – go back to beginning. If he is unsure: within 30 days of the

change – he goes back. After 30 days – doesn't need to go back.

**9** – If one says *Barech Alenu* instead of *Barechenu*: in middle of Beracha – goes back to *Barechenu*. After saying *Baruch Atah Hashem* – end with *Lamedeni Chukecha* and go back to *Barechenu*. If he already said *Yihyu Leratzon* (second one) he then goes back to beginning of Tefillah.

**10** – During the Sefirat HaOmer we do not listen to music, even pre-recorded, from after Pesah until the 33<sup>rd</sup> of the Omer.

**11** – The Sephardic people have the custom not to get a haircut or shave during the days of Sefirat HaOmer until the morning of the 34<sup>th</sup> day of the Omer. Since it is only a Minhag, if one has pain from keeping a beard, he may shave on Erev Rosh Hodesh Iyar. If one is greatly pained, he may be lenient and shave every Friday for the honor of Shabbat. Bnei Yeshiva are obligated to fulfill this Minhag.

**12** – *Harav Mordechai Eliyahu ztl* writes in his *Kitzur Shulchan Aruch* that we must decrease our joy during Sefirat Ha'Omer, and some have the custom to not recite Shehechyanu on clothing, but could recite it on fruit. One may buy new clothing and wear it after the 33<sup>rd</sup> of the Omer. Some do not have this custom and recite it on everything, which is the custom we follow.

#### *Sponsors*

\*\*\* **R' Leon Guindi HaCohen, his wife Simcha, and their children.** Blessings and success for the entire family, Amen. \*\*\* **Mr. Soli Araman, his wife Vicky, and their children.** Blessings and success for the entire family, Leilui Nishmat his mother **Rachel Bat Zahie a"h**, Amen. \*\*\* **Mr. Abraham Nakash, his wife Bella, and their children.** Blessings and success for the entire family, Amen. \*\*\* **Dr. Fouad Albakdadi, his wife Mazal, and their children.** Blessings and success for the entire family, Leilui Nishmat his brother **Saleh Ben Hasibah a"h**, Amen. \*\*\* **Mrs. Judith Feld Carr.** Blessings and success for the entire family, Leilui Nishmat her husband **Donald Carr HaCohen a"h**, who helped families in Souria for twenty-eight years, may his memory be blessed, Amen. \*\*\* **Mr. Moshe Swed, his wife Mary, and their children.** Blessings and success for the entire family, Leilui Nishmat his father-in-law **Yitzchak Salama Ben Miriam a"h**, Amen. \*\*\* **Mrs. Robin Assa.** Blessings and success for the entire family, **for the Assa families and for the Samouha families**, Leilui Nishmat **Moshe Ben Bracha a"h**, Amen. \*\*\* **Mrs. Bella Dayeh Kamhaji and her children.** Blessings and success for the entire family, Leilui Nishmat her father **Ezra Ben Zarifah a"h**, and Leilui Nishmat her mother **Zakieh Bat Nizhah a"h**, Amen. \*\*\* **Mrs. Mira Abady, her husband Morris,**

**and their children.** Blessings and success for the entire family, Leilui Nishmat her father **Yitzchak Ben Miriam a"h**, Leilui Nishmat **Olga Bat Frieda a"h**, and Leilui Nishmat **Mazal Bat Esther a"h** Amen. \*\*\* **Mrs. Henriette Zarif Shami, her husband Albert, and their children.** Blessings and success for the entire family, Leilui Nishmat her mother **Adele Bat Mazal a"h**, and Leilui Nishmat her brother **Moshe Ben Adele a"h** Amen. \*\*\* **Mrs. Eva Dahab and her children: Jonathan, R' Eliyahu, and Kamilia.** Blessings and success for the entire family, Leilui Nishmat her husband and their father **Freddy Nissan Ben Shoshana a"h of the Boroman family**, Amen. \*\*\* Blessed siblings of the Houdrie HaCohen family: **Rachamim, David, Yehoshua, and their sister Evon.** Blessings and success for the entire family, Leilui Nishmat their mother **Frieda Bat Zakie a"h**, Amen. \*\*\* **Mrs. Kita Bawabe Dwek and her siblings.** Blessings and success for the entire family, Leilui Nishmat their mother **Simcha Bat Mazal a"h**, Amen. \*\*\* **Mrs. Bella Daniel and her children.** Blessings and success for the entire family, Amen. \*\*\* **Mrs. Olga Zalita and her children: Nissim, Moshe, Shlomo, Nina, Fifi, and Sarah.** Blessings and success for the entire family, Leilui Nishmat their father **Natan Ben Najla 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.

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