

Congregation

◆◆◆◆ **"Beth Yosef"** ◆◆◆◆

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

Rabbi Aharon Farhi

Mr. Eliyahu Levy, President

Parashat **Tazria Tahor** (*Metzora*)

Maqam Saba

Haftarat **VeArbaah Anashim**

5th Iyar 5785

Issue #1116

May 3rd 2025

*Candle Lighting 7:35pm * Shekiah 7:53pm * Shir Hashirim 7:00pm followed by Mincha Friday Night
Shaharit Shabbat 8:15am * Mincha Shabbat 7:20pm * Shabbat Ends 8:36pm & Rabbenu Tam 9:06pm
Time for Talit 4:31am * Seasonal Hour 81 * Alot Hashahar 4:15am * Netz Hachama 5:52am
Weekday Mincha 7:00pm * Earliest Time for Arbit 6:50pm * Tzet Hacoachavim 8:31pm * Chatzot 12:52
Latest Time for Morning Keriat Shema 8:18am * Latest Time for Morning Amidah 9:39am*

There is a Minyan Shaharit every weekday morning in Beth Yosef at 6:00am

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

Parashat Tazria: *“On the eighth day, the flesh of his foreskin will be circumcised.”* Hashem commanded us to make a sign on our bodies, which will distinguish our holy nation from the rest of the nations. This is a sign, a true sign, that does not change either in life or after death, which is marked forever on our flesh. This instructs us that we are the servants of Hashem and are obligated to observe His commandments. It is known that the fulfillment of this commandment is very high and lofty. There are many reasons and secrets revealed in the Torah regarding this great Mitzvah. When the father brings his son to the Brit Milah, the people say: “Just as he has reached the performance of Brit Milah, so too should he learn Torah, get married under a Chupah, and perform good deeds.” The reason why we bless the newborn son during the commandment of circumcision, the Baal Shem Tov teaches, is because the Brit Milah is sealed on the flesh, thus completing the body and soul as a servant of Hashem, enabling us to serve Him as a Jew. This seal cannot be removed, nor can one erase it, which is not the case with the other commandments. When one fulfills the Mitzvah of Tefillin or one of the other commandments, one may at some point in time separate from that Mitzvah and decide

that he does not want to fulfill it anymore, heaven forbid. This commandment is very specific and unique in the sense that it is actually a very painful thing to do: to cut the baby's soft flesh, which causes him to cry and scream because it hurts him very much, while at the same time all the guests sit around the tables that are laid out with delicacies and sing together with joy and happiness. This is only because we know and believe that Hashem commanded us to perform this Mitzvah with joy. *Torah, Chupah, and good deeds* – why do we mention good deeds last? There is a lesson. When a baby is circumcised, it is not because he has a choice in the matter. He is unaware of what is happening. Had the baby known of the pain and blood, he would instinctively wish to avoid it. If so, what merit can the baby receive? Therefore, we bless the baby to first learn Torah, to learn about fulfilling the Mitzvot, and then to merit getting married so that he can have a son of his own, as the Parasha first speaks of a woman who gives birth to a son, so that they could perform the Mitzvah of Brit Milah. Circumcision is the ‘good deeds’ that is being mentioned, as there is no greater deed than fulfilling this Mitzvah on your son. Why? Because now you have the opportunity to perform this Mitzvah with

intention and understanding. At that moment, when you bring your son to Brit Milah, you are retroactively agreeing to your own Brit Milah that was performed on you when you were a baby, and you are declaring that you were happy and willing all along, so that through this now you will receive the reward and merit for fulfilling that great Mitzvah many years ago as well. May Hashem watch over us always, Amen.

Parashat Metzora Tahor: “*The Cohen who purifies shall place the person being purified*” Why does it need to say in the Pasuk the Cohen ‘*who purifies*’? It should just say that *the Cohen shall place the person being purified*? The Ben Ish Hai explains, the Cohen must understand that while he is the one purifying someone else, he himself must be completely pure in order to purify others. If he is not completely pure, then he would not be able to purify others. There is a Mashal to better understand: A Talmid Hacham was once learning Torah on Thursday night in Yeshiva until midnight. While returning home, he passed by a house where Jewish men were wasting their time gambling and drinking. Filled with zealotry for the honor of Hashem, he went into the house and screamed at the men, giving them Mussar that entered their hearts. They were so moved by his words that they gave him all the money they were playing with as a gift and promised to improve. Time went on and one day this Talmid Hacham was experiencing financial pressure. He told himself, surely those gamblers have gone back to their wrong deeds, and perhaps I can go rebuke them once again and they’ll reward me with their money in return. But this time, because his intentions were not for the sake of Hashem, his intentions were not pure, he was unsuccessful in purifying their hearts, and instead of listening to his Mussar, they screamed at him, ridiculed him, and chased him away, as the Pasuk says, *the Cohen who purifies*, because he must be pure himself in order to purify others.

History in Brief

200 years after the Hurban, calendar year 270. When Rebi Elazar, son of Rebi Shimon Bar Yohai, was at the end of his days, he became sick and weak. When his wife saw this, she laughed and she cried. She laughed because she was so happy to have been attached in this world to such a great Tzaddik, but she cried because the body of this great Tzaddik will soon be returned into the ground. When his time to pass was coming, he told his wife that he did not trust the rabbinate to take care of his burial arrangements properly, because he had been very harsh on thieves and many in the rabbinate were their relatives. Therefore, he instructed his wife to leave him resting in the attic, but although worms would not come to eat his body, the moment he passes she should conduct herself in mourning. For twenty-two years her husband remained in the attic, his body fully intact, and he would even bleed if she removed a hair from his head. One day she noticed a worm by his ear and this frightened her. Rebi Elazar came to his wife in a dream and told her not to worry, that he deserved it, because one time he had heard someone speaking derogatory about a Talmid Hacham and he did not protest enough for his honor. One time two men came to settle a matter of judgment amongst them. Rebi Elazar’s wife instructed them to stand by the attic door and argue their case. They heard Rebi Elazar from inside the attic decide who was right and who was wrong, and they did not even know that he had already passed away.

Health and Recovery

One of the most important aspects of human health is the digestive system. The digestive system is not only an indicator of our health, it is also the direct cause of our health. The better the digestion, the more nutrients and vitamins the body can get from the food consumed in order to keep it warm and healthy, without which it would be impossible to exist. If you ask, what can we do? Is the digestive system

under our control? Such thoughts are a mistake. The digestive system does not start in the stomach and intestines, but in the mouth, in what is inserted into the mouth, and in the way those things are inserted and how it is all handled. As we know, the human body receives its vitality from the food it eats, which must be according to Hashem's instructions. When Hashem created man, what did He say to man? *I have given all the grass to you to eat.* Hashem knows what food is good for us and for our health: vegetables and fruits, which can provide humans and animals with very good health. Food begins to digest with the chewing process in the mouth cavity. The saliva makes the food a paste ready to slide through the esophagus into the stomach. The saliva contains 64 enzymes needed for the digestive system and the human body. The salivary glands secrete saliva not only while chewing the food, rather the process continues throughout ingestion. However, without the stimulus of eating, the secretion of saliva stays open so as not to become a nuisance. For twenty-four hours the body secretes and swallows about two liters of water (saliva). The mouth swallows fifty times an hour while we're awake, and ten times an hour while we sleep.

Mussar: *Ma'aser (Tithes)*

Giving a tenth of your earnings to charity is so great that Hashem allows you to test Him, to see whether or not you will be rewarded with wealth. Fortunate is the one who keeps track of the exact amounts and follows through. Hashem is greatly pleased through this Mitzvah. Keep the money separate so it will be easier to give to charity. One cannot be absolutely certain that another man will follow through with his promises of profit, but he can be absolutely certain that Hashem will follow through and bless him accordingly. He will be rewarded and fortunate in this world and the next with everlasting benefits. His portion will multiply if he uses it for charity towards the study of Torah. Hashem will have mercy on

those who show mercy to others. May our rewards be complete, Amen.

Rishon LeSion:

Maran Hacham Ovadia Yossef 1921-2013

One day everyone in the marketplace watched in shock with surprised eyes. The Rosh Yeshiva of Porat Yosef, Maran Gaon R' Ezra Attieh, accompanied by another great teacher and scholar R' Eliyahu Lofes, had left their Gemara in the Bet Midrash and were walking through the market in the middle of the day. Why? That morning, while Hacham Ezra made his routine walkthrough of the Yeshiva, he noticed an empty seat in the class of R' Lofes. He knew this seat was usually occupied by a great and promising student, Ovadia Yossef. R' Lofes explained that it was empty because Ovadia's father had asked him to assist in the store so that the family can make enough money to support themselves. When Hacham Ezra heard this, he took his coat, asked R' Lofes to accompany him, and they both set out at once to the marketplace, intending to bring the young Ovadia back to Yeshiva. If he continued working for his father, they had no doubt he would be financially successful, however there was no doubt that the world would lose a great Talmid Hacham. When they reached the store, Ovadia was surprised to see the great Sages standing in the doorway. He invited them inside.

Story

When R' Chaim Leib visited R' Elimelech's brother and asked him whether it was indeed necessary to continue on his journey to R' Elimelech, and give up more of his time from Torah learning, he was advised: "It is not worth abandoning Torah study, go back and return home." He returned home, but not long afterwards his daughter started getting even worse, seemingly at the gates of death. He quickly readied the wagons once more and returned to the road. On his way, he came to city of Krakow, where the holy Tzaddik lived,

known as the Maor VaShemesh, student of R' Elimelech. He had merited to witness miracles while learning by R' Elimelech. When R' Chaim Leib told this Talmid about his desperate situation, the Maor VaShemesh instructed him to immediately go visit his Rebbe for help. He was confident R' Elimelech would help him, and his daughter would return to health. What's more, he believed that she would also find a suitable husband to marry. Right now, his daughter was like a stone, and her life needed to be revived. The Talmid only asked that when he is on his way back home, R' Chaim should return to him and let him know what his Rebbe had decided to do in order to return her to health.

Laws

1 – When reciting Amen in Shul, a person has to understand the three parts to Amen, as follows:

2 – The first part of Amen is praise and appreciation to Hashem, admitting to Hashem's greatness and believing in Hashem. This is most applicable when answering Amen to blessings such as Birkot Hashahar, Baruch Sheamar, the first three blessings in Amidah, Modim, and Nodeh Lecha in Birkat Hamazon.

3 – The second part of Amen is a request and a prayer, asking Hashem for blessings. This is most applicable when answering Amen to Kaddish, the Harachamans in Birkat Hamazon, Zochrenu LeTovah, etc.

4 – The third part of Amen is both praising, appreciation, and also a request and a prayer, most applicable when answering Amen to the middle Berachot in the Amidah.

5 – When washing Netilah in the morning, a person should really recite the blessing before drying the hands, but can also do so afterwards. If he forgot to recite the blessing afterwards, he can do so in Shul while reciting Birkot Hashahar. This is only for Netilah in the morning, however when washing for bread, if he did not recite the blessing before drying his hands, then he cannot recite the blessing afterwards.

Sponsors

*** **Mr. Soli Araman, his wife Vicky, and their children.** Blessings and success for the entire family, Mazal Tov to their son **Joe and his wife Julie on the birthday of their son Soli**, may he live to 120 years in happiness, health, strength, comfort, and success, Amen. *** **Dr. Morris Antebi, his wife Norma, and their children.** Blessings and success for the entire family, Amen. *** **Mrs. Golda Behar, her husband Jack, their children and their grandchildren.** 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 all the Jewish people that passed away during World War II until this day, *may their souls be bound up in the bonds of eternal life*, 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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