

Congregation



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

**Rabbi Aharon Farhi**

*Parashat* **Behar Behukotai**

26<sup>th</sup> Iyar 5785

*Maqam Saba*

Issue #1119

**Mr. Eliyahu Levy, President**

*Haftarat* **Hashem Ouzi**

May 24<sup>th</sup> 2025

*Candle Lighting 7:55pm \* Shekiah 8:13pm \* Shir Hashirim 7:00pm followed by Minha Friday Night Shahrarit Shabbat 8:15am \* Minha Shabbat 7:40pm \* Shabbat Ends 8:56pm & Rabbenu Tam 9:26pm*

*Time for Talit 4:07am \* Seasonal Hour 85 \* Alot Hashahar 3:50am \* Netz Hachama 5:32am*

*Weekday Minha 7:00pm \* Earliest Time for Arbit 7:06pm \* Tzet Hacoachavim 8:51pm \* Chatzot 12:52*

*Latest Time for Morning Keriat Shema 8:05am \* Latest Time for Morning Amidah 9:30am*

*Minyan Shahrarit every weekday morning in Beth Yosef at 6:00am*

*This week's publication has been generously sponsored by the good-hearted Mr. Toby Cohen, his wife Shella, and their children. May their entire family be blessed with spiritual and physical success in all that they do, Mazal Tov to his brother Mr. Yehezkel Cohen and his wife Bella on their new home, may they merit life full of prosperity and tranquility, Mabrouk, Amen.*

**Wednesday May 28<sup>th</sup> will be Rosh Hodesh Sivan**

*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**

**2415 Ocean Parkway, Brooklyn NY 11235**

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**Parashat Behar:** This week's Parasha teaches us the laws of Shemitah and Yovel. Every seven years is a sabbatical year called Shemitah, and after every seven sabbatical years, the fiftieth year is called Yovel. Shemitah and Yovel are compared to Shabbat, the seventh day of the week, in which we remember creation and we rest from working on the seventh day. We rest to remember that the purpose of creation is not our mundane work, but rather our spiritual fulfillment. Hashem allowed us, even commanded us, time off from work in order to recognize that we do not have to work harder than necessary, and we should use the time to learn Torah and grow in spirituality. Not only do we rest, but the ground rests as well. We are only allowed to use the ground for six years. It is not our ground, it is Hashem's ground, and we are

not given the ground to work on the seventh year. During the six years, there are 364 Shabbats, and during the seventh year there are 364 days. If anyone desecrated Shabbat during the six years by working his field in any way prohibited, then the 364 days of Shemitah provide atonement for those 364 Shabbats. Likewise, if anyone desecrated the land by working it during the year of Shemitah in any way prohibited, the fiftieth year, Yovel, provides atonement for all seven Shemitah years that lead up to Yovel.

**Parashat Behukotai:** The Pasuk says, *If you will follow My decrees and fulfill My commandments.* We must learn Torah and fulfill Mitzvot, especially commandments that apply between man and his friend, because Hashem prioritizes those over

commandments that apply between man and Hashem. If man will ask, what happens when we learn Torah? Hashem personally in His honor answers, that rain will fall in its proper time. Rain is necessary for survival, health, prosperity, for clean air and beneficial weather conditions, for crops and vegetation. Rain in its proper time is a big blessing. When the food is blessed, we can eat little and be satiated. When everyone is well fed and healthy, there is peace and tranquility, which promotes great relationships between man and his fellow, which then once again brings more blessings to the world, for our homes, our families, and our communities, Amen.

### ***History in Brief***

*190 years after the Hurban, calendar year 260.* After the burial of Rebi Elazar, son of Rebi Shimon Bar Yohai, Rabbenu Hakadosh sent a message to Rebi Elazar's widow that he was interested in marrying her. She sent back that a vessel used for holiness cannot be used for mundane, meaning compared to Rebi Elazar's holiness, Rabbenu Hakadosh was not on the same level for her to be his wife. He responded that although he was not as great in Torah, he must have been greater in good deeds. She replied that she knows for a fact that her late husband was greater, because he accepted upon himself the pain and suffering of the entire nation, and he accepted it with love. Rebbe sent Yosef the son of Rebi Elazar to learn Torah from his mother's brother until he grew older and learned in the Yeshiva of Rabbenu Hakadosh. When Rebi Yosef son of Rebi Elazar passed away, they brought him to the burial cave of his father in Meron, but a large snake wrapped itself around the entrance and did not let them in to bury him there. They asked the snake to allow them to bury a son next to his father. A voice rang out from heaven and said that although Rebi Yosef was great in Torah, he did not experience the pain and suffering of living in the cave for many years as did his father Rebi Elazar and his grandfather Rebi Shimon Bar Yohai, and therefore he could not be buried with them in this cave.

### ***Health and Recovery***

The Rambam, Maimonides, wrote six times as follows: Of the most important ways to maintain health, a person should not delay relieving his body of wastes, not even a little bit. He wrote further that this is a prohibition and not just good advice. All who delay to relieve their body are burdening their soul as well, and condemns himself in committing this evil, for many terrible sicknesses occur in the intestines. Why is that? The food is transported through several areas from the moment it enters the body, through contractions of the natural muscles that move it from one place to another until it reaches the stomach through the esophagus, and from the stomach to the duodenum, which is another digestive station (the first part of the small intestine immediately beyond the stomach, leading to the jejunum), from there to the small intestine, and from there to the colon. As long as the food has not reached the colon, it is still called "food," meaning that it is fit to be in the body. Upon entering the colon, it becomes waste waiting to leave the body. The greater the amount of intestinal activity, the better it is for the body's health. We pray that each day the waste goes through and out without difficulty, because the longer the waste is in the colon, the more the body continues to absorb bad things that really deserve to be secreted. Because it is possible in this place for the waste to accumulate, or rather in the colon where the waste is standing and not moving, the longer it stays in the intestines, the greater its risk of causing health issues and sicknesses.

### ***Mussar: Seclusion with Hashem***

Seclusion is a very important trait that is greater than the rest. Seclusion means to devote and dedicate a special frame of time to privately speak with Hashem to thank Him, praise Him, and ask from Hashem what you need. Speaking with Hashem should be done privately where nobody sees and one should ask Hashem to help him come closer to Him and serve Him better, in the best and optimal way. This conversation with Hashem could be conducted in any language and should express whatever is in your

heart, whether it is regret or repentance for the past, or the intentions to be closer to Hashem from that point on. Every person should come closer to Hashem using the tools Hashem has given him, each on his own level. The key is consistency – every day one should make an effort to draw closer, as this will also make the day into a happier one. Even if a person can only speak about one thing with Hashem, that is also a great thing. He should be strong and steadfast, and he should try to do this a few times during the day. The added result: you will see success and salvation in your life and with your family and kids. These conversations with Hashem help void evil decrees without even knowing about their possibilities. A person must know: a Jewish man's sword is his prayer, as this is the connection between Hashem and man. If you see a change in your daily life, don't say it's a coincidence; rather be a devout believer that it's all from Hashem. Ask from Hashem that you shouldn't be put to test, that you should not experience disgrace due to the Yetzer Hara's strong and sharp strategies against man. Who can withstand them? Pray to Hashem so that He will help and save you from the Yetzer Hara. May Hashem watch over us, Amen.

### **Rishon LeSion:**

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

One time, the roof in the Yeshiva began leaking drops of rainwater, specifically over the place where Hacham Ovadia would always sit. He appreciated his usual location and did not want to move, so he took a sort of sleeping pad or mattress and placed it above his head to shield him from the rain. When the sleeping pad became full and heavy from all the rainwater that it had absorbed, he exchanged it for another. This is how he continued learning without interruption. When his colleagues in Yeshiva took a trip on vacation for a few days, Maran did not go with them. R' Shalom HaCohen asked him: Everyone is going, why are you not going with them? He answered that he had just started learning Gemara Masechet Baba Kama, and by the time they returned he was certain he would be able to learn quite an amount of Gemara if he

stayed behind. After the trip, R' Shalom went to see how much Hacham Ovadia had learned, and he discovered that he was already up to Daf 99. R' Shalom commented: Hacham Ovadia does not need a vacation, he enjoys his journey through the pages of the Gemara as he walks through the orchards of the Torah, through its widths and lengths.

### ***Story***

Chaim Leib left the home of the Noam Elimelech with his daughter, who was now miraculously cured from her ailments, and he held in his hand a document signed by the Rebbe for four hundred gold coins. When he visited the student of the Noam Elimelech on his way home to tell him what happened, they did not understand how or from whom he would be collecting the money in the document, but they understood that if the Rebbe did not write more information, then soon enough they would find out. A couple of weeks went by. Everyone was overjoyed that their daughter was once again healthy, but worried how they would be able to afford a proper dowry for their daughter's marriage. Chaim Leib didn't know what to do. He decided to go to a known restaurant where many successful businessmen often ate and tell them the whole story. Perhaps if he showed them the document signed by the Rebbe, one of them would have an understand how he was supposed to collect the four hundred gold coins from it.

### ***Laws: Yom Tov***

**1** – One is forbidden to prepare anything – cooking, baking, and even setting the table – from one day of the holiday to the next. One may cook a large pot of food with the intentions to eat it during the upcoming weekday, Shabbat, or Second Holiday as long as he eats a little bit during that day of Yom Tov and does not explicitly state his true intentions. This is allowed only if he is cooking before lunchtime. However, if it is past lunchtime, then he may not do this, since he really does not need the food for now and is only performing trickery alone.

**2** – One may take medication or pain relievers during Yom Tov, but may not use creams or ointments.

**3** – One may not squeeze fruits for their juices, with the exception of a lemon squeezed for food, provided that you do not use a vessel designed for this purpose.

**4** – One may use a cheese grater during Yom Tov provided that he changes the way he usually does it, i.e. he grates the cheese straight onto the table instead of into something.

**5** – One may do Borer (picking and choosing), with his hands and not with a vessel, for that day. Whether the part you want is more, or the part you don't want is more, you always remove the fewer amounts in order to limit the toil.

**6** – One may smoke cigarettes on Yom Tov (lit from an existing fire) only if he is accustomed to smoking and not doing so would bring him pain. However, one who is not accustomed to smoking may not smoke a cigarette.

**7** – Fruits detached from a tree during Yom Tov may not be touched and certainly not eaten. However, after Yom Tov one may eat them.

**8** – Extinguishing electricity or a fire, even partially (i.e. lowering an oven/stove) is forbidden. One may not even ask a non-Jew to do the act. However, one may lower a gas fire in order not to burn the food but not in order to save gas.

**9** – However, one may extinguish a gas fire indirectly. This is done, for example, by filling up a kettle to the rim with water and letting it boil until it overflows and extinguishes the flame. Since the prohibition is only Derabanan (Rabbinical origin), Gerama (causing indirectly) is permissible. However, one should use some of the hot water for tea or coffee in order to have cooked it for the purpose of consumption.

#### ***Sponsors***

\*\*\* ***Mrs. Sarah Yedid Cohen, her husband Joey, their parents, and their children.*** Blessings and success for the entire family, Amen. \*\*\* Pharmacist ***Mr. Eli Shalouh***

***HaCohen, his wife Lillian, and their children.*** Blessings and success for the entire family, Leilui Nishmat her father ***Yitzhak Issac Kamhaji Ben Amilia a"h***, Amen. \*\*\* ***Mr. Mordechai Levy, his wife Ketty, and their children.*** Blessings and success for the entire family, Mazal Tov to ***Mr. Yehezkel Cohen and his wife Bella*** on their new home, Mabrouk, Amen. \*\*\* ***Mr. Toufic Shakalo, his wife Lizett, and their children.*** Blessings and success for the entire family, Mazal Tov to the Sandak ***Mr. Shelomo Khafif and his wife Eva*** on the birth of a grandson, Mabrouk, Amen. \*\*\* ***Mr. Eli Levy, his wife Becky, and their children.*** Blessings, health, and success for the entire family, Refuah Shelemah, Amen. \*\*\* ***Mrs. Olga Zalita and her children: Nissim, Moshe, Shlomo, Nina, Fifi, Leah, 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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