

Congregation

★ ★ ★ "Beth Yosef" ★ ★ ★

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

Rabbi Aharon Farhi

*Parashat **Ki Tavo***

20th Elul 5785

Maqam Siga

Issue #1132

Mr. Eliyahu Levy, President

*Haftarat **Kumi Ouri***

September 13th 2025

*Candle Lighting 6:51pm * Shekiah 7:09pm * Shir Hashirim 6:30pm followed by Minha Friday Night
Shaharit Shabbat 8:15am * Minha Shabbat 6:30pm * Shabbat Ends 7:49pm & Rabbenu Tam 8:19pm
Time for Talit 5:22am * Seasonal Hour 73 * Alot Hashahar 5:08am * Netz Hachama 6:35am
Weekday Minha 6:45pm * Earliest Time for Arbit 6:13pm * Tzet Hacoachavim 7:44pm * Chatzot 12:51
Latest Time for Morning Keriat Shema 8:47am * Latest Time for Morning Amidah 10:00am*

Honorable readers, the following generous donors and their families should be blessed with spiritual, material, and physical success for sponsoring this holy weekly Torah publication:

Mr. Edmon Mordechai Guindi HaCohen, his wife Margo, and their children, for donating \$1800

Anonymous generous donor and his family for donating \$1500

Mr. Victor Edmon Saade, his wife Marline, and their children, for donating \$1000

Mr. Jack Edmon Saade, his wife Linda, and their children, for donating \$1000

Mr. David Aharon Farhi, his wife Suzy, and their children, for donating \$1000

Mr. Rimon Shahoud Shakalo, his wife Linda, and their children, for donating \$1000

Baruch Hashem sponsorship total is \$7300 but we still have a deficit of \$2350 for the past year.

We are waiting for generous donors to come forward and grab the opportunity and merits.

May Hashem bless all our sponsors with spiritual, material, and physical success, Amen.

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

To sponsor our weekly publication, please mail your donation to:

Vaad Tehilim Torah c/o R' A. Farhi

2415 Ocean Parkway, Brooklyn NY 11235

Please do not read this bulletin during Tefillah or Keriat Hatorah

Upon completing the chapter discussing the Mitzvah of Bikkurim, the Pasuk states: "*Gaze down from Your holy abode, from the heavens, and bless Your people Israel*". Rabi Mana Ben Aba expounds: How great is the power of charity! Usually, the usage of the Hebrew word 'Hashkifah', to gaze down, signifies something negative and bad, however in this case it signifies blessing, as it is a positive result of the power of charity. The question is: if the word is negative, how is it positive here, and if it is positive here why is it considered universally negative elsewhere? To clarify this, let us better understand the concepts involved: The word for gazing signifies close observation, meaning to look deeply and examine the details of the specific thing. If Hashem examines our actions with great precision, He will find many shortcomings within us, for there is no perfect person alive, and there is no righteous person in

the world who only does good and never sins. For a person of flesh and blood, this degree of scrutiny demands for justice to intervene, and punishment is therefore inevitably executed on the person. Therefore, we generally request that Hashem refrain from gazing upon our deeds in depth with scrutiny, in order to avoid punishment and justice. However, charity is very special. When a person performs charity, the gazing, the investigative examination in depth, suddenly becomes favorable and produces blessings. When we give without scrutiny and try to help those in need without trying to find them at fault for needing and without deciding for ourselves whether their needs are justified in our eyes, Hashem then too awards us with a blind eye towards our own shortcomings and does not scrutinize us either, thereby giving and blessing us without reason, without justification of receiving, with great

blessings in abundance. Now we can understand the connection in the earlier Pasuk that discusses the giving of charity to the convert, the orphan, and the widow. Blessings and success are showered upon a person who is a giver of charity, a generous donor and benefactor to those in need. The greater the act of giving, the more powerful will be the blessings and success. In the merit of charity, the ultimate redemption will arrive, as it says: *Through judgment will Zion be redeemed, and will return with charity.* Can it be that judgment, usually cold and exact, will ultimately bring the final redemption? The last part of the Pasuk clarifies: with *charity* shall Zion return. If we are charitable and generous in exile, even our judgment will become favorable and award us with merits of blessings and success. Through the outstanding power of charity, Hashem turns judgment into mercy, and gives us blessings instead of punishments. May Hashem watch over us, Amen. (*Ooneromema Shemo Yachdav*)

Insights on the Parasha

1 – One who brings Bikkurim states: *“Arami Oved Avi Vayered Mitzraim” ‘My ancestor served Lavan, and later went down to Egypt’.* What is the connection between the two adjacent topics? Who caused Yosef to go down to Egypt, and later the rest of the brothers followed as well? Lavan Arami. How? Because if he would have given Yaakov his daughter Rachel first and foremost for a wife as was contractually agreed upon and would not have tricked Yaakov with deceit to first marry Leah, then Yosef would have been the firstborn son, and it would have been understandable and acceptable for Yaakov to honor Yosef above all the other brothers as Yosef would have been deserving of respect as the firstborn son! No other brother would have been jealous of their oldest brother if that was the case. However, it was Lavan that caused Yaakov to first marry Leah and only later marry Rachel, thus basically stealing away the potential firstborn rights from Yosef. This caused the others brothers to be jealous of their younger brother Yosef who was now far from being the firstborn but was nonetheless being

honored as if he was by their father, which caused strife and ultimately led to their extended exile in Egypt.

2 – The Pasuk states: *“Rejoice with all the good that Hashem has given you.”* What is considered *good*? It is none other than Torah, as it says *“I have given you a good product, do not forsake it”*. The Or HaChaim expounds: If people would understand with true feeling the sweetness and enjoyment of Torah, they would chase after it with exceptional drive and determination, understanding that gold and jewels are worthless in comparison. Torah encompasses real good, and is the true source of wealth in this world.

History in Brief

220 years after the Hurban, calendar year 290. Rebi Yehuda son of Rebi Chiya would sit and learn Torah in Bet Midrash all week long, and then return home to his family on Friday Erev Shabbat. One Friday he did not return as usual. His father-in-law Rebi Yanai was concerned that his delay was caused from something bad that must have happened to him. He was thinking to overturn his bed as was the custom when someone passes away. However, as this was a misunderstanding on Rebi Yanai's part, at that moment Rebi Yehuda passed away. Rebi Chiya had one daughter who passed away in her youth. After Rebi Chiya passed away, his sons passed away not long after and were buried in a cave next to their father, Rebi Yehuda on his right, and Chizkiya on his left. Eliyahu Hanavi would come visit the Midrash of Rabbenu Hakadosh. One day, on Rosh Hodesh, it seemed that as it was getting later, he would not be coming. When he finally came, much later than usual, Rebbe asked him, why he was so late in coming? He explained that he was busy with our holy Avot, Avraham, Yitzchak, and Yaakov. Each in turn, he would help them get up, wash their hands, they would pray, and then he would rest them down again. Rebbe asked, wouldn't it be more efficient to help all three together at once? Eliyahu Hanavi answered, if the Avot would pray together at the same time, Mashiach would come immediately, before its proper time. Rebbe asked, is there such a comparison

currently in this world? Eliyahu Hanavi revealed that, Yes! Rebi Chiya and his two sons are comparable.

Health and Recovery

The Rambam, Maimonides, wrote: overeating and gluttony has an effect on the body of every person like a drug of death, equipped with poisonous similarities, and is the main reason for all sicknesses. Most sicknesses that people contract are nothing but a direct cause of eating unhealthy foods, or even healthy foods that are eaten in gourmandizing fashion, filling the stomach beyond normal capacity, as Shelomo Hamelech teaches: "One who guards his mouth and tongue saves himself from the troubles of his being." How does one guard his mouth, if guarding his tongue means not speaking Lashon Hara? The intention of the lesson is that you must guard your mouth from eating bad food or in general overeating a lot of food. Now we will explain the damages caused by filling the belly to capacity. The process of digestion is done by the movement of the stomach muscles and the mixture with the stomach juices. It is clear that the fuller a balloon is, the more difficult it will be to have adequate movement and mixture within it. This movement is due to contraction and expansion. It is designed to knead the food well, along with the stomach juices, so the fuller the stomach is, and the more food that is consumed, then the more difficult it will be to mix with the stomach juices. What is the result? The muscles in the digestive system are weakened, the benefits from the food is decreased, the weight of the person will increase, and the body's fat will then increase.

Mussar: Where Are We Holding?

We are in the middle of the days of Mercy and the days of Judgment combined. Everyone that lived through the year 5785 until the upcoming new year of 5786, all the health, livelihood, and everything in between, was all decided on Rosh Hashanah 5785, as well as sickness, death, pain and suffering, all decreed on Rosh Hashanah 5785. That year is coming to a close, and a new year is coming soon, Be'ezrat Hashem it should bring peace and blessings. What can we do in the last two weeks of this year? How can we prepare to have a good year 5786? We need to crown our

King, the Creator of all. The word Elul strikes the heart of man who understands its meaning. One who wakes up while it is still dark outside to recite Selihot in Shul feels happier and more confident in his preparations before the Day of Judgment. However, one who doesn't get up for Selihot, remains sleeping in bed, doesn't prepare even a little bit and doesn't feel any awakening, will feel afraid and unready for the Day of Judgment rapidly approaching. These days must be inspirational and awakening in preparation for the days that will decide the fate of the year to come. The angels are busy, the Shofar is sounding and stirring the sleepy, and all should be telling themselves: Hashem is closer during these days. Pray, recite Selihot, give charity, do kindness, this is the time to search within, introspection, contemplation, meditation, and self-analysis. Fix the broken, straighten the crooked. Hashem is calling out to us with mercy and kindness, telling us to heed His call and return to Him. He wants us! The days left are few, the time is short, learn Torah, recite Tehillim, learn Mussar, Mishnah, Gemara, each at his level. We are approaching days of cleansing, which will then lead into days of great happiness and joy during Sukkot, to celebrate success of a good judgment, as we shake Lulav and live in the Sukkah with Hashem. Climb the mountain of Hashem and cling to it. In two weeks is Rosh Hashanah, after a month of work and preparations. The holiness and faith of a Jew is noticeable during these days, when we feel Hashem's Presence closer to us. The books of life and death will be opened in front of the King of Kings Who sits on the throne of mercy, Who hears the Shofar of Bnei Yisrael to switch from judgment to mercy. During these days Hashem offers to us gifts of life and we must extend out our hands to take and accept. Our Teshuvah, our repentance, our sincerity to do better, to be better, this is how we reach the throne of glory, to be worthy of life, to embrace the future year, to be blessed with health, happiness, success, and everything else. May our efforts be blessed, and may Hashem write and sign us for a year of good peaceful life, Amen.

Laws: Rosh Hashanah

1 – Some have the custom that the head of the household recites the blessings as well as the Yehi

Ratzon and everyone else fulfills their obligations by reciting Amen afterwards. In any event, if you hear another recite a Yehi Ratzon, you should recite Amen afterwards.

2 – If one is tired during Rosh Hashanah and needs to rest, he may only do so after Hatzot (midday). One should not be angry, even in his mind, during Rosh Hashanah, since it might be bad for the person during these days, besides for the prohibition of being angry that is all year round. Be friendly, smile, and don't be particular or stubborn about anything.

3 – Shehechiyanu is recited at the end of Kiddush on both nights, but not in the day.

4 – One who forgot to say 'Yaaleh Veyavo' in Birkat Hamazon on Rosh Hashanah should follow these rules: If he said Hashem's name in the Beracha but did not say Boneh Yerushalayim, then he should say with Malchut, "*Baruch Atah... Asher Natan Yamim Tovim Le'amo Yisrael, Et Yom Hazikaron Ve'et Yom Tov Mikraei Kodesh Hazeh, Baruch... Melech Al Kol Ha'aretz Mekadesh Yisrael Veyom Hazikaron.*" If he remembered after he began the fourth Beracha, he can end the Beracha with "*Asher Natan Yamim Tovim...*" However, if he began to say "Hakel Avinu Malkenu" then he may not go back and must continue as usual.

5 – The blower of the Shofar and the congregation must be careful not to speak between the Beracha and the blowing. 'Baruch Hu Ubaruch Shemo' must not be recited for this Beracha.

6 – One is forbidden to talk during the blowing until the end of Mussaf.

7 – A Shofar is Muktzeh on Shabbat and may not be touched. Women are accustomed to be strict and come to Shul to hear the Shofar. If a woman or man cannot make it to Shul, a blower may blow for her or him. However, it is forbidden for her, or for her blower, to make the Beracha, if the blower already fulfilled his obligation. For a man, however, a Beracha may be recited.

8 – The blower and congregation must have in mind to fulfill their obligation to hear the Shofar. After prayers blowing without purpose is prohibited.

9 – During the Ten Days of Repentance, *Oseh Hashalom* is recited at the end of the Amidah, and the Chazzan recites it in Kaddish Titkabal of Shaharit and Minha, but not in the Kaddish

Titkabal of Arbit, or at the end of Selihot. However, Friday night when the Chazzan recites the Beracha of Seven after the Amidah, if he then says *Oseh Hashalom* in that Kaddish Titkabal, he has what to rely upon.

Sponsors

*** **Mr. Hudre Ballas, his wife Evon, and their children.** Blessings and success for the entire family, Amen. *** **Mr. Mayer Wahba, his wife Poline, and their children.** Blessings and success for the entire family, Amen. *** **Mr. Eli Levy, his wife Becky, and their children.** Blessings and success for the entire family, Refuah Shelemah, Amen. *** **Mrs. Nina Saade and her blessed children: Yosef, Jack, Ziko, Sofia, Dolly, and Karen.** Blessings and success for the entire family, Leilui Nishmat their father **Avraham Saade Ben Shafiah a"h**, Amen. *** **Mr. Nissim Alkada, his wife Rima, and their children.** Blessings and success for the entire family, Leilui Nishmat her father **Yehuda Ben Rima a"h**, and Leilui Nishmat his mother **Rachel Bat Latifah 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. Yosef Ishay, his wife Suzette, and their children.** Blessings and success for the entire family, Mazal Tov to **Mr. Joe Levy and his wife Raizy**, for the bride and groom **David and Rachel**, Mabrouk, and Refuah Shelemah for **Mr. Eli Levy** with health and strength, Amen. *** **Dr. Fouad Albakdadi, his wife Fortoune Mazal, and their children.** Blessings and success for the entire family, Refuah Shelemah for **Mr. Eli Levy** with health and strength, Amen. *** **Mr. Rimon Shakalo, his wife Linda, and their children.** Blessings and success for the entire family, Leilui Nishmat his mother **Mazal Touni Bat Rachel a"h**, Amen.

*This week's sponsorship total is \$400
273,100 website visits!*

* * * * *

www.BethYosef.com