

Congregation



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

Rabbi Aharon Farhi

Parashat Vayetze

9th Kislev 5786

Maqam Ajam

Issue #1139

Mr. Eliyahu Levy, President

Haftarat VeAmi Teluim

November 29th 2025

*Candle Lighting 4:12pm * Shekiah 4:30pm * Shir Hashirim 4:00pm followed by Minha Friday Night
Shaharit Shabbat 8:15am * Minha Shabbat 3:55pm * Shabbat Ends 5:11pm & Rabbenu Tam 5:41pm
Time for Talit 6:03am * Seasonal Hour 56 * Alot Hashahar 5:52am * Netz Hachama 6:59am
Weekday Minha 4:10pm * Earliest Time for Arbit 3:56pm * Tzet Hacoachavim 5:06pm * Chatzot 11:44
Latest Time for Morning Keriat Shema 8:40am * Latest Time for Morning Amidah 9:36am*

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

The power of prayer connects man to Hashem, and makes a powerful impression in this world and in the next, for now and for the future. When Yaakov left Be'er Sheva and went to Haran, he prayed and was immediately answered, as the Pasuk says that Hashem stood over him. Leah Imenu was destined to marry Esav, but through her prayers and tears she was able to marry Yaakov instead as the first wife and merited to birth six of the Shevatim. Each Shevet that was born, she continued to pray and thank Hashem. Reuven was named for Hashem *seeing* her hard circumstances. As a result, when Bnei Yisrael suffered in Mitzraim, Hashem then also *saw* their hard circumstances. Shimon was named for Hashem *hearing* of her hard circumstances. This thankfulness benefited Bnei Yisrael in Egypt as well. When a person prays, he creates a conduit, a connection between man and Hashem, through which blessings and salvation can continue to flow even for generations to come. Once the gates are opened by our predecessors, we can now

access that channel for prayers moving forward. When Moshe Rabbenu prayed for Bnei Yisrael after the sin of the Golden Calf, he mentioned the merits of Avraham, Yitzchak, and Yaakov, to be able to use those connections through prayers to merit their descendants and be granted forgiveness for their iniquity. When we pray every single day, we are not just praying now anew and trying to form a connection. We already have a strong and powerful connection between us and Hashem that has been developed for thousands of years. We must use every opportunity to pray and connect to Hashem, to utilize the existing channels of prayers in order to bring blessings to this world, thanking Hashem for everything that has already been merited and praying for great merit in the future. May Hashem watch over us, Amen.

Insights on the Parasha

1 – The Pasuk says that Yaakov reached the place, referring to praying Arbit there, because the sun had set. There is a hint here to the Halacha that if one

accidentally misses the prayer of Minha, then he should pray Arbit twice to make up.

2 – Lavan told Yaakov that Hashem had warned him not to do anything negative to Yaakov. Lavan believed that he in fact had the ability to harm Yaakov, just that he was warned against taking action. This was the message Lavan was giving Yaakov. (*Rebi Shaul*)

History in Brief

200 years after the Hurban, calendar year 270. Rav Chaviva would often be visited by Eliyahu Hanavi. He wanted to see Rebi Chiya as he went before the Throne of Glory. Eliyahu Hanavi explained that while all other righteous Sages went before the Throne of Glory with the assistance of angels, Rebi Chiya did not require assistance, and therefore witnessing this will cause the eyes of a human to burn and destroy. Rav Chaviva could not hold himself back, so when he looked both his eyes burned. The next day Rav Chaviva went to the burial spot of Rebi Chiya to ask him to pray for his recovery, so that his eyes should heal, and miraculously his eyes healed and he was able to see as before. At that time, Antoninus the Caesar of Rome and close friend of Rabbenu Hakadosh had converted to Judaism and was an advocate for our nation. After Antoninus, his two sons Marcus and Aurelius took over as Caesars. Rabbenu Hakadosh, a descendant of David Hamelech, was very wealthy and he supported the holy Sages from his table. In the calendar year 194, Caesar Albinus took reign. During that time, the 24,000 students of Rebi Akiva

and the ten martyrs of the Malchut were murdered.

Health and Recovery

1 – Figs, grapes, pomegranates, and almonds are healthy for the body whether dried or otherwise. They cleanse the kidneys, increase body mass, and improve overall conditions. Dry figs are in fact better than juicy figs. 2 – One should always be accustomed to eating a proper breakfast before starting his day. 3 – One should not sit down to a meal if he feels it necessary to relieve himself. 4 – One must regularly clear his intestines, as one who is not careful with this will experience terrible health issues. 5 – Elderly people should drink hot water with tea daily. 6 – A person experiencing digestion issues should distance his meals further apart, and eat lighter.

Mussar: Learning Torah

Torah is one of the three crowns Bnei Yisrael was given. This crown is greater than the crown of priesthood and the crown of kingship. There is no greater Mitzvah than learning Torah, as it says *Learning Torah is as great as all of them*. One who wants to be crowned with Torah should not waste his time. If you think that you'll first earn money and then learn Torah, you will not merit the crown of Torah. Make the Torah your permanent schedule and make work your temporary task. *Do not say when I have time I'll learn, for perhaps you won't have time. It is not in heaven*, meaning: to learn Torah you must be a "down to earth" person and not haughty. *It is not across the ocean*, meaning: one who toils too much in work

will not merit Torah. Learn *Lishmah* (for Hashem's name) and work *Lishmah*, for then Hashem will help you complete your work successfully and quickly so you can spend more time learning Torah. If a person learns Torah properly, Hashem will deliver the Torah to him with ease and precision, as we find by Avraham Avinu. Hashem testified that Avraham kept the Torah even though nobody taught it to him. Because Avraham toiled in trying to learn the Torah and the concepts of faith, trust, and belief in Hashem, Hashem gave him this great gift. Toiling in Torah distances you from sinning, while wasting valuable time, which could potentially be used for Torah, will just cause more sins and terrible punishment. Even if you are traveling, think about Torah, as our great sages would not go even a 4 Amot distance without thinking in Torah. The Torah will protect and watch over you. May Hashem merit us to toil in Torah, Amen.

Rishon LeSion:

Maran Hacham Ovadia Yossef 1921-2013

The Egyptian authorities would randomly inspect and accuse Hacham Ovadia of performing actions and instructions on behalf of the Israeli government, worried that he was either a spy or secretly mobilizing a militia. One time they asked him why he delivered his classes in Hebrew instead of Arabic. He calmly explained that the language he was employing was the original text and language that Hashem had used to give us the Torah on Mount Sinai. It is best understood in its original form. They were not satisfied with this answer. They asked the students how they were able to understand the classes in Hebrew;

wouldn't it be better if it was delivered in Arabic, which was their native tongue? The students answered that they actually understood the Torah better in Hebrew, and so they left the topic alone. During one of the random visits to Hacham Ovadia's home, the Egyptian authorities asked him to reveal the weapons that had been sent to him from the Zionists. Maran took them to his study and showed them the shelves and shelves of Sefarim. He explained that this was all the weapons and protection that he would ever need. The spiritual defense and protection provided by the holy Torah was more than anything physical can provide. It is the bread of Sages and through it they win wars.

Important Note

When we sing *Nakdishach* during Hazarat Amidah, or even during the week when we read it without song, we have to pause before saying *VeKara*, and we cannot just sing through it and connect the words. Who are the ones calling out? The ministering angels are the ones calling out, not the prophets who were just mentioned with the words *Al Yad Neviach*. Many make this mistake and just read it straight without stopping, singing through the words, without realizing what they are saying. There has to be a pause before *Vekara*. We asked the professional Hazzan Hacham David Shiro and he told us that this is a big mistake that many do. We need to correct this. Do not read through this with one breath, instead pause before saying *Vekara*. May Hashem watch over us, Amen.

Laws

1 – Some have the custom to tie an extra knot at the end of the Tzitzit so that the

knots do not unravel. This is a Melacha of tying and is not allowed to be done during Shabbat.

2 – The Tzitzit need to be at least 24cm in length from the corner of the garment, not from the hole. One third of that length are the knots and two thirds of the length are the strings after the knots.

3 – Although some put flour or breadcrumbs in the mix when making their falafel, the blessing remains the same, since that ingredient is only used for the purpose of holding everything together to form a ball and is secondary to the actual food. However, if flour is added for flavor or to increase the amount of food output, then the blessing on the falafel is now Mezonot.

4 – When adding pieces of nuts, if the nuts are large enough and noticeable, then a blessing of Ha'etz is required for the nuts. However, if the nuts are small and insignificant in size, then the blessing is Shehakol.

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Amen. *** ***Mr. Farah Hamra, his wife Dina, and their children.*** Blessings and success for the entire family, Mazal Tov to ***Mr. Eli Levy on the Zechut of being Sandak***, Mabrouk, Amen. *** ***Mr. Albert Shaya, his wife Shoshana, and their children.*** Blessings and success for the entire family, Leilui Nishmat his father ***Moshe Ben Miriam a"h***, 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. Brenda Heffez and her blessed children: Larry, Gabriel, and Jack.*** Blessings and success for the entire family, Leilui Nishmat their father ***Avraham Ben Dora a"h***, Amen. *** ***Mrs. Norma Assa and her children.*** Blessings and success for the entire family, Leilui Nishmat her husband and their father the Shochet Hacham ***Yosef Ben Najla a"h***, Amen. *** ***Mr. Jack Mowadeb, his wife Stella, and their children.*** Blessings and success for the entire family, Mazal Tov to the bride and groom ***Jack and Rena***, Mabrouk, Amen.

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