

Congregation



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

Rabbi Aharon Farhi
*Parashat **Terumah***
4th Adar 5786

Mr. Eliyahu Levy, President
*Maqam Husseni Haftarat **VaHashem Natan***
Issue #1151 February 21st 2026

*Candle Lighting 5:18pm * Shekiah 5:36pm * Shir Hashirim 5:00pm followed by Minha Friday Night
Shaharit Shabbat 8:15am * Minha Shabbat 5:00pm * Shabbat Ends 6:18pm & Rabbenu Tam 6:48pm
Time for Talit 5:38am * Seasonal Hour 64 * Alot Hashahar 5:26am * Netz Hachama 6:42am
Weekday Minha 5:25pm * Earliest Time for Arbit 4:53pm * Tzet Hacoachavim 6:13pm * Chatzot 12:09
Latest Time for Morning Keriat Shema 8:38am * Latest Time for Morning Amidah 9:42am*

Petirat Moshe Rabbenu: Monday February 23rd Reading Begins 6:00pm in Beth Yosef
Taanit Esther Fast: Monday March 2nd Begins 5:09am & Ends 6:15pm

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

Terumah was donated by Bnei Yisrael, each man whatever his heart desired to give, from many different materials. Our Sages teach us, the same is true regarding Torah learning, each person learns whatever his heart desires. There is no comparison what each donates, and there is no comparison what each learns, whether it is Mishnah, Gemara, Halacha, Chumash, Tehillim, everything is accepted by Hashem. Each person is here in this world for a purpose, to affect a Tikun, to make a positive difference, and we cannot dictate to individuals how to fulfill their purpose in life, they have to feel it out and do as their heart and interest guides them in Limud Torah. Each person is responsible to work in favor of their strengths, with whatever Hashem has blessed them with. If a person is blessed with an abundance of money, he should use it to increase Torah and Tzedakah in the world. If a person is blessed with a special talent or skill, like

a sweet voice, he should sing in honor of Hashem, as it says in the Gemara, Chiya the son of the sister of Rebi Elazar Hakefar, had a very pleasant and sweet voice, so he instructed his nephew to use it in service of Hashem. Navot Hayizraeli had a beautiful voice, and he used it in honor of Hashem when Bnei Yisrael would go up to Jerusalem. One time he chose not to go up to Yerushalayim, and this caused him to be lost from the world. King Ahab desired his vineyard, and this led to Navot's death. The two students who were learning with Rabbenu Hakadosh each wanted to learn something else after they completed Parashat Hashavua. One wanted Mishlei, the other wanted Tehillim. Rebbe decided on Tehillim, but when he read in the first chapter that the Torah of Hashem is desired, without specifications, he explained that it is not for him to decide on what his students should learn, it only depends on what their own heart desire to

learn, as long as it is the Torah of Hashem. A person needs to fulfill his learning to affect a Tikun in this world and so that he will not need to return again in another Gilgul. May Hashem watch over us, Amen.

Insights on the Parasha

The Torah says that the poles in the Aron are not to be removed, but it does not instruct this regarding any other Kelim in the Mishkan. This teaches us that those who are the poles of Torah, meaning those who support Torah learning by donating money and therefore are carrying the Aron Hakodesh, since they support Talmidei Hachamim in their lifetime, they will be granted a portion within the boundaries of the Hachamim in the world to come. (*Chafetz Chaim*)

History in Brief

200 years after the Hurban, calendar year 270. As Rebbe was passing away, the Hachamim gathered outside his house to pray for his life. They declared a fast, and said that whoever announces the passing of Rebbe will be stuck with a sword. The maid of Rebbe went up to the roof and declared that those above want Rebbe, and those below want Rebbe, may it be the will of Hashem that those below overpower those above. It is a good sign when one passes away on Friday, because he is quickly ushered into his resting. When the maid witnessed that Rebbe was forced to remove and put back on his Tefillin very often due to his terrible stomach ailments, and that going to the restroom was not helping him but just causing him tremendous pain, she changed her declaration, may those above overpower those below, in mercy. She took an earthenware vessel, threw it in the area outside where the Hachamim were gathered and praying, and caused them to interrupt their prayers for a moment, so that Rebbe was able to pass away in holiness and purity. As he was passing away, Rebbe pointed his ten fingers heavenward and said that despite his immense

wealth, he spent his time learning Torah and did not benefit from this world with even his small pinky, may it be the will of Hashem that he should have a peaceful resting, and then he passed away.

Health and Recovery

One of the most important nutrients for body building is protein. Protein is used to build the skeletal bones, cells, tissues and hormones of our body. Therefore, diets based on the avoidance of eating protein are not healthy. Protein is found in milk and dairy products, meat and beef, chicken, eggs, and legumes. While hard-boiled eggs can be difficult to digest, it is best to eat soft-boiled eggs. Just place the eggs in water, boil the water, and after the water has boiled for two minutes extinguish the fire and remove the eggs to produce soft-boiled results. Legumes, such as hummus, peas, lentils, millet, buckwheat, and quinoa, are rich in protein. Soybeans are also rich in protein, but should be avoided, as consumption can interfere with the healthy production of thyroid hormones. There is also a high-volume of aluminum in soy. Whole-grain rice contains many vitamins and nutrients, such as B vitamins and many minerals, and should be consumed. Chickpeas provide a relatively high level of protein, of course not in industrially prepared hummus, which actually contains a lot of tahini and a lot of salt and margarine, which is hardened vegetable fat, and includes other stabilizers and preservatives as well as other non-healthy supplements. Protein is also found in almonds and sunflower seeds, but they would need to be chewed well.

Rishon LeSion:

Maran Hacham Ovadia Yossef 1921-2013

When the Egyptian Shochet moved to Israel and opened a butcher shop, Hacham Ovadia was shocked that he was able to receive kosher certification. How could someone who has no fear of heaven be allowed to sell meat to

Jewish people? The rabbinical authority defended themselves, that they had tested him on all the laws of Shechitah and he had passed by answering all the question satisfactorily. Hacham Ovadia then testified regarding his past experiences with this Shochet and made it clear that the man was not to be trusted with Kashrut. The Rabbanim were appalled from the stories they were hearing! The very next day they removed their certification from his butcher shop, thanking Hashem that the truth was revealed before any damage was done. The Shochet heard what had happened and became enraged against Hacham Ovadia. He went to his home and said that he had come to Israel to start a new chapter in his life, to do everything properly from now on. Why did he insist on destroying his opportunity? Hacham Ovadia answered, if he was really starting anew, why wasn't he washing his hands Netillat Yadayim, and why wasn't he properly covering his head while slaughtering? Maran alerted the authorities that this man was a threat to him, and they sent protection, concerned for his safety.

Mussar: Theft and Robbery

These are most terrible sins. The decree for the Great Flood was signed because of theft and robbery. The prayers of one who steals are not heard, they feed him scorching heat in the next world, and he must return to this world reincarnated in order to repay the theft. During the times of the great Ba'al Shem Tov, a thief came back as a horse and worked very hard to repay the theft to the one he had stolen from. Sins committed between man and his fellow are not forgiven during Yom Kippur unless one forgives his friend, and these sins can even cause the forgiveness for other sins between man and his Creator to be withheld as well from forgiveness during Yom Kippur. Nowadays, people believe that theft and robbery committed through trickery and conniving cunning is the payoff of their great ideas. They actually even thank Hashem for

their success in what they have convinced themselves is great work, when in truth it is none other than thievery in disguise. How terrible are those who borrow without the intentions to ever repay. Such a person abuses the trust and mercy of the ones who lend money, and causes them to never again want to lend to those in need. How can one buy an item on credit from a store and have no intentions of ever paying? Never worry for the one being cheated. Hashem will fight his fights and he will be repaid. As well, the thief will also receive the terrible punishments awaiting him in the next world. Be even more careful with stealing from non-Jews, for also involved is the sin of Hillul Hashem – desecrating Hashem's holy name. May Hashem watch over us, Amen.

Story

After the butcher bought the doctors portion in the world to come for only one coin, time went on as usual. One day a respectable woman entered the butcher shop. She asked the butcher if he remembered her late husband the doctor. The butcher explained that he only knew him by face and didn't have a relationship with him. She told him that after her husband passed away, he came to her in a dream and revealed that he had been judged by the heavenly court, and his sins were many. He was sentenced to Gehinam, but he argued that he had been a healer, a doctor, who had faithfully and trustfully assisted many with their ailments and sicknesses. Doesn't it say that if one saves even one person, he is considered to have saved the whole world? Is this actually the judgment of truth and proper justice here in this world above? They answered him, what could they do, despite his argument, he had anyway sold his share in the world to come for a single coin! Where else could he go? The doctor pleaded with his wife to immediately ask the butcher to rescind the sale that was obviously not to be taken seriously. At the time of the sale he had no idea

what the real ramifications would be! He begged the heavenly court to allow him to give over this message to his wife so that he would have a chance to void the sale and get back his portion of the world to come, instead of rotting away in Gehinam forever.

Laws: Machatzit HaShekel

1 – Sefer *Mateh Yehuda* writes: the obligation to donate a Machatzit HaShekel is really only required while there is a Bet Hamikdash, to fund public sacrifices such as Tamid and Mussaf. Nowadays the custom of donating is only a remembrance.

2 – The custom nowadays according to Hacham Ovadia is to give nine grams of silver, valued today at approximately twenty-five dollars.

3 – The value of silver in the market fluctuates daily, often times rising in value much higher than natural, like now, because of the way people are trading. We cannot rely on this pricing structure, because it is based on peripheral influences. Therefore, we can be lenient and continue to rely on the valuations from previous years of eleven dollars. When Hashem commanded Moshe regarding the Machatzit HaShekel, He showed him a coin of fire from under the Throne of Glory. What do we learn from this? The coin came from a place of holiness and righteousness. Regarding the Shekalim paid by Avraham Avinu, he used coins that were accepted and valued accurately everywhere by all. Unlike today, when the silver market valuation is based on fear of tumult and uncertainty. May we merit financial security and certainty from Hashem, and may Hashem protect us from the confusion of today, Amen.

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