

Congregation

◆◆◆"Beth Yosef"◆◆◆

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

Rabbi Aharon Farhi

*Parashat **Ki Tisa Parah***

18th Adar 5786

Maqam Hijaz

Issue #1153

Mr. Eliyahu Levy, President

*Haftarat **Vayhi Devar***

March 7th 2026

*Candle Lighting 5:34pm * Shekiah 5:52pm * Shir Hashirim 5:20pm followed by Minha Friday Night
Shaharit Shabbat 8:15am * Minha Shabbat 5:20pm * Shabbat Ends 6:36pm & Rabbenu Tam 7:06pm
Time for Talit 5:14am * Seasonal Hour 67 * Alot Hashahar 5:01am * Netz Hachama 6:21am
Weekday Minha 5:45pm * Earliest Time for Arbit 5:08pm * Tzet Hacoachavim 6:31pm * Chatzot 12:06
Latest Time for Morning Keriat Shema 8:22am * Latest Time for Morning Amidah 9:29am*

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

Hashem spoke to Moshe, saying: When you take a census of Bnei Yisrael... every man shall give Hashem an atonement for his soul... The Pasuk uses the word Rosh, head, when counting the census, to teach us that when someone is appointed as a Rosh, a leader, he must be someone willing to give of his soul in order to serve the people. Our Sages teach us to love the work but hate the authority. This means that a person who is appointed as a leader should love working for the people, but should hate his own authority, meaning he should distance from actions which would benefit himself through his power. On the one hand he should appreciate his authority in order to serve the people, while on the other hand he should loathe his authority and power so that he will not come to use it for his own personal gains. Why did Hashem command the giving of a half Shekel? Why not a whole Shekel per person? This is a fundamental lesson, that man cannot achieve fulfillment and completeness on his own. An individual only has the ability to reach halfway, and must combine with others in order to accomplish full results. No matter if someone is wealthy or another is destitute, they are considered half of the whole. The poor can assist the

rich, and the rich cannot do it on their own. Everyone gives exactly half. Hashem passed before him and proclaimed, "Hashem, Hashem". Why does the Pasuk repeat Hashem's name twice? Man is composed of two parts, his body and his soul. When man cries out to Hashem for mercy, from the depths of his heart, he uses his soul, a portion of Hashem, and the body joins in and cries out as well. Hashem listens to the joint outcry, and has mercy to save him from suffering. May Hashem watch over us, Amen.

Insights on the Parasha

When Bnei Yisrael sinned by creating the Golden Calf, they declared that it was a god that brought the nation up from the land of Egypt. How could they think this? The idol was only just created, and they had already been taken out of Egypt much earlier? When they were leaving Egypt, Moshe wrote on a golden piece 'Aleh Shor' rise up ox, referring to Yosef who is compared in the Torah to an ox. When Moshe threw this gold piece into the river, the coffin of Yosef rose up to the top from the bottom of the river. People kept this piece of gold and used it in order to create the Golden Calf. Therefore,

they considered its power to be present back when they were being redeemed from Egypt.

History in Brief

200 years after the Hurban, calendar year 270. When Rabbenu Hakadosh passed away. Rebi Yanai declared that the Kehunah was in recess for the day, and Cohanim were allowed to assist in the burial preparations. Why? Because Rebbe's soul was a spark from the soul of Yaakov Avinu, who was not considered to have passed away and is still alive, therefore Cohanim were allowed to assist with the burial. That day, Erev Shabbat, was miraculous, there was somehow enough time in the day to conduct a number of eulogies in many different locations, and the sun did not set until everyone returned home to light candles for Shabbat. Shortly after the sun set, the rooster crowed to announce the rising of the sun, as time stood still but caught up, and the community realized how late it should have been, potentially a desecration of Shabbat in honor of Rebbe. The launderer of Rebbe's clothing would come every day to wash his clothes, but that day he did not come. When he heard that Rebbe passed away, he fell off the roof to his death. A heavenly voice rang out that all who are not lazy in eulogizing Rebbe will earn a guaranteed portion in the world to come. This launderer also earned his portion in honor of Rebbe. That day, any Jew that passed away was buried quickly, so that he could be part of the procession along with burying Rebbe. On Motzei Shabbat, the people exhumed the bodies of their deceased and buried them instead near the grave of Rabbenu Hakadosh.

Health and Recovery

Our Sages warn: there should be no talking during a feast, lest food enter the windpipe instead of the esophagus and cause choking.

If food or saliva were to enter the lungs, the person's life would be in immediate danger through suffocation. This is a very dangerous junction. An accident at this intersection can become a fatal situation at any age without prior warning. Unlike other diseases or sicknesses, even if a person is generally careful, this situation can elevate without symptoms or warning. Sometimes if it happens that food enters the windpipe, with the mercy of Hashem, miraculously the person will be able to immediately cough up the food which is pushed out of the trachea and the danger of suffocation will be prevented. The rule is that the more you chew the better you will be able to digest your food, both through being well crushed and along with the saliva of the mouth that mixes with it and breaks it down further. It is important to know that if you eat healthy foods, in the proper amount with the desired form of chewing, the chances are that the overall desire to eat more and snack more will decrease, and the feeling of fullness will satisfy you. The right way is to eat a little at a time, and then in a short time you will feel a tremendous change in your feelings of hunger. It is the desire to fill the belly that causes most patients to become sick, according to the writings of the Rambam. You should know that carbohydrates are mainly broken down in the mouth with saliva. Therefore, continuous chewing of carbohydrates is done in the mouth through saliva and thus it is very important to chew thoroughly because it causes the maximum breakdown of carbohydrates, which will then produce the maximum benefit to the body from the food.

Mussar: Life

Do you wish to live in peace and tranquility? Do not become accustomed to the physical enjoyments of this world. If Hashem has

blessed you with wealth and prosperity, do not spoil yourself or teach your family to require higher standards of living, complete with the much-desired enjoyments of this world. We do not know what tomorrow will bring. If one becomes accustomed to higher standards, he will require it. A child will feel a great need to satiate this requirement even in his old age. If the child is raised in such a fashion but cannot fulfill this higher standard later in life, he may be led to theft. He will live in pain if he cannot continue living the way he has become accustomed to when he was growing up. One must be happy and satisfied with what he has and needs, and should teach himself control and discipline, for then he will be praised in this world and in the next. One should despise the physical and mundane enjoyments that this world tries to force a person to chase after, for the pleasure is momentary while the destruction caused can be catastrophic and long lasting. Desire the true life! Chase after the life of Torah, Mitzvot, and good deeds. Serve your Creator and present a wonderful fragrance before Him through your deeds. Don't waste your precious life with foolish silliness while chasing after your desires. Perform the will of Hashem with all of your might and ability. Do not cease from learning His laws and commandments, and structure your day to include a set of uncompromised time for Torah study. One who follows this advice will merit a truly wealthy life of health, happiness, and longevity, Amen.

Rishon LeSion:

Maran Hacham Ovadia Yossef 1921-2013

After Hacham Ovadia found out that the hospitals in Cairo were serving not kosher food, he decreed that the community should boycott their services. After a week, when it became clear that they were not going to comply and correct their actions, he banned

it outright. When his own wife was giving birth in Egypt to his son Avraham, and his daughter Malka, he did not use the services of this hospital at all. His students and those who had Yirat Shamayim listened to him and did not use the hospital at all either. They performed Hafganas. But nothing changed. The people in charge were not afraid and did not worry about the authority of Hacham Ovadia who was serving as an assistant rabbinical leader and a judge in Bet Din for a contract of two years. They were not concerned with the long term and did not change anything in the meantime.

Story

The nonreligious doctor who had sold his portion in Gan Eden for a measly Rubel to the religious butcher had passed away and appeared to his wife in a dream, begging her to convince the butcher to void the sale. The widow visited the butcher and told him what her late husband said in her dream. She begged him to take back the Rubel and void the sale. The butcher asked, why did her husband the doctor want to void the sale? She explained that the heavenly court was judging him as a sinner, but he was arguing that he did so much good in his life as a healer for people in pain and need. Where were his good deeds to tip the scale? They explained that he had foolishly sold them all for a single coin. He asked them to allow him to appear to his wife in a dream, so she can try to correct the mistake. The court agreed, and so here she was. The butcher was unmoved. He was unwilling to void the perfectly legal sale. He was a simple butcher who didn't have a lot of merit in his name. He was always too busy working to help people and fulfill Mitzvot. Now he was in possession of great merits, saving peoples lives, relieving their ailments and sufferings, he was sure to enjoy a promising portion in

the next world! The widow understood that the butcher was not interested, so she returned home in grief for her husband. The next morning, she went to the Shul of the Rav of the city, Rabbi Yaakov David who was born in 1845 and passed away in 1914. She waited until he was done praying so that she could approach him to discuss this matter.

Laws: Pesah

1 – Thirty days before Pesah we begin learning all the laws pertaining to the fast-approaching holiday. *Yehi Shem* is recited throughout the month.

2 – There aren't any communal fasts during the month of Nissan. However, it is permitted for an individual to fast on the passing of a father or mother.

3 – Both men and women are obligated to recite Birkat Ha'Ilanot, the blessing on the trees. It is preferable to recite it with a group of ten men.

4 – The blessing on the trees should be recited on fruit bearing trees, in the presence of at least two such trees, before the fruit grows, before the flowers fall, and can even be recited during Shabbat and Yom Tov.

5 – It is a good custom, beginning from the first day of the month of Nissan, to read every day the Parasha of the Nasi's donation for the day.

6 – It is a special Mitzvah for every person, before the start of Pesah, to give charity to the needy so that they should have enough for all their holiday needs.

7 – A person that is careful from even the smallest amount of Chametz on Pesah will receive special help from Heaven to avoid sinning throughout the entire upcoming year!

8 – The Shabbat immediately preceding Pesah is called *Shabbat HaGadol*, the *Great Shabbat*, and on this day there's a holy obligation upon everyone to gather in Shul to listen to the rabbi discuss the laws and topics pertaining to Pesah.

Sponsors

*** *Mr. Yosef Soly Araman, his wife Julie, and their children.* Blessings and success for the entire family, Mazal Tov to *David Zetoune*

on his *Bar Mitzvah*, Mabrouk, Amen. *** *Mr. Eli Levy, his wife Becky, and their children.* Blessings, health, and success for the entire family, Amen. *** *Mr. Mayer Wahba, his wife Pauline, and their children.* Blessings and success for the entire family, Amen. *** *The Farhi Family.* Blessings and success for the entire family, Leilui Nishmat their father *David Ben Paulisa a"h*, 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*, Leilui Nishmat his father *Nouri Ben Rosa 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.

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