

Congregation

★ ★ ★ "Beth Yosef" ★ ★ ★

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

Rabbi Aharon Farhi

*Parashat **Matot Masei***

26th Tamuz 5786

Maqam Nahawand

Issue #1167

Mr. Eliyahu Levy, President

*Haftarat **Shimu Dabar***

July 11th 2026

*Candle Lighting 8:10pm * Shekiah 8:28pm * Shir Hashirim 7:00pm followed by Mincha Friday Night
Shaharit Shabbat 8:15am * Mincha Shabbat 7:50pm * Shabbat Ends 9:10pm & Rabbenu Tam 9:40pm
Time for Talit 4:09am * Seasonal Hour 86 * Alot Hashahar 3:52am * Netz Hachama 5:35am
Weekday Mincha 7:00pm * Earliest Time for Arbit 7:17pm * Tzet Hacocharim 9:05pm * Chatzot 1:01
Latest Time for Morning Keriat Shema 8:10am * Latest Time for Morning Amidah 9:36am*

Wednesday July 15th will be Rosh Hodesh Av

Generously sponsored by the kind-hearted Mr. Joey Chakkalo, his wife Ninette, their children and their parents, Blessings and success for the entire family. May Hashem bless them and their family in all areas physically and spiritually, Amen

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

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Matot

One must ask why at the beginning of our *Parasha*, Moshe changed the usual order. Normally, the *Pasuk* begins, "And Hashem spoke to Moshe," but here it says, "And Moshe spoke to the heads of the tribes (*Rashei HaMattot*), saying, 'This is the thing which Hashem has commanded.'" Moshe began by speaking to the heads of the tribes because they usually make promises before they are appointed as leaders, saying to the community, "If you appoint us to the leadership (*Nesiut*), we will do such-and-such good things and such-and-such benefits for you." However, after they are appointed, it turns out to be entirely false, and they don't keep any of their promises. Therefore, Moshe comes and warns them in the following *Pasuk*, "He shall not break his word; he shall do according to all that comes out of his mouth." And Moshe specifically changed the order of the *Pasuk* mentioned above because he is a leader and knows firsthand that matters of promises are most common among the heads of the tribes. Furthermore, in order for his words to

be fulfilled, he must first fulfill the matters himself in the manner of "one who preaches beautifully and fulfills beautifully" (*Na'eh doresh vena'eh mekayyem*). And there is no one more beautiful or more fulfilling of his words than *Moshe Rabbenu*.

Masei

"And the killer shall dwell in his city of refuge (*Ir Miklat*) until the death of the *Cohen Gadol*." Therefore, the mothers of the *Cohen Gadol* would provide the exiles with food and clothing so that they would not pray for their sons to die so that the killers could return to their homes. One must ask: why would the holy *Cohen Gadol* be afraid of the prayers of these accidental killers? After all, he enters into the innermost sanctuary on *Yom Kippur*, prays for the entire people of Israel, and atones for them. How could he fear the prayer of the killers who are in the cities of refuge? The answer is: the *Cohen Gadol* in his own prayers should have begged for mercy for his generation so that no stumbling block would occur through them, such that a person would be killed accidentally,

and he did not request and did not pray. Because of this, there is a fear that the killer's prayer will ascend before *Hashem* and outweigh the merit of the Cohen Gadol. The accidental killer did not intend to kill—perhaps he is an entirely righteous man who stumbled in this tragedy only because of the head of the community, who is the Cohen Gadol who was negligent in his prayers, and the sin of this killer was caused through him.

History in Brief

220 years after the destruction of the Temple, calendar year 270

When *Rabbi Yehoshua ben Levi* entered *Gan Eden* and did not want to leave, *Eliyahu HaNabi* accompanied him and began walking with him, proclaiming before him, "Make room for the son of Levi!" He entered the presence of *Rabbi Shimon bar Yochai* and found him sitting on a golden throne that had armrests, and afterward, he entered the presence of *Rabban Gamliel* and saw what he saw. He also saw many *Talmidei Chachamim*, some of whose faces were raised high and some whose faces were cast down. He asked, "Why is it like this?" They said to him, "Those whose faces are raised high learned and fulfilled what they learned, and those whose faces are cast down learned and did not fulfill what they learned." The *Chachamim* said, "What are the awesome deeds of *Hashem*?" The answer: this refers to how He sustains the people of Israel among the nations of the world who want to destroy them. "And what are His mighty deeds?" That *Hashem* is slow to anger with the wicked. And all of this is in the merit of Torah study and the fulfillment of its *Mitzvot*, which have never ceased from Israel. *Rabbi Yehoshua ben Levi* said, "Every single day a heavenly voice (*Bat Kol*) goes out from Mount Horeb (*Har Horeb*) and proclaims: Woe to the creations for the insult to the Torah! And anyone who engages in the Torah is elevated, and his sins are atoned for him."

Health and Recovery

Hashem created a person with an internal temperature, which is the life force of man. If the temperature diminishes, the person cannot live. Food fuels the life force, as a flame requires wood to continue burning and remain lit. If a person does not eat, he will eventually die of hunger. The teeth grind up the food, the saliva breaks it down further and softens it, and then it goes down into

the body where it is broken down further and divided into nutrition and waste. The body includes special acids and other chemicals that break down the food and distribute it to all organs throughout the body. The waste is collected and extracted. We then recite the blessing of *Asher Yatzar* for all the miracles that occur within the body in order to successfully absorb food and extract the waste. Every limb and organ is given the necessary nutrition cleaned from the waste. If the waste would not be removed, the body would simply not be able to function properly and would get sick from the toxicity. Health depends on the food we consume, the healthy diet we observe, and the waste that is cleared from our bodies. Not being mindful of the importance of eating well and detoxing the waste from the body can lead to eventual health issues. Do not eat too much in one meal, eat lightly, and remember that what is swallowed must then be digested by the organs within the body, so take your time to chew well before swallowing in order to ease up the strain on digestion.

Mussar: Modesty

Modesty is one of three character-traits that *Hashem* requests of our nation, as is stated in the Pasuk. Such a trait can protect a person from the Evil Eye, and save one from terrible sins, as we find by *Yosef Hatzaddik* who was careful with his modesty and did not look at his master's wife. He was saved from sin because of his diligence and care. *Rabbi Yossi* was once asked by a certain woman: how could it be true that *Yosef* at the age of 17 had been so successful with his resolve not to sin? In response, he pulled out a *Sefer Beresheet* and began reading about the incidents with *Reuven* and *Bilhah*, *Yehuda* and *Tamar*, and then explained: these were greater men and were still living near their father, yet the Torah does not cover up the truth – do you really believe that the Torah would cover up the truth by *Yosef*? Certainly not! The Torah begins with the ideas of modesty, as we see by *Adam* and *Chava*. Anyone who is careful with modesty is protected from death, as we find by *Shaul* who was spared by *David* because of his modesty that *David* witnessed and decided not to kill him at that moment. Modesty includes that one must dress in lengthened and adequate amounts of clothing that are clean and orderly. If modesty is important for a man, surely it is important for a woman, who must always be very careful with her appearance and character, to always act and present herself in a refined and modest manner. A woman is a princess of *Hashem*. A woman must make sure to

avoid having others look at her, especially if she is married. Because Dina the daughter of Yaakov went out and sampled the styles of the other inhabitants, she caused trouble to come upon herself. A woman was actually created from a hidden and modest source, as she was taken from a side bone from man that is usually covered. With every limb that was formed, the intention was that woman should be modest. A bride who makes sure to be careful with her modesty will be blessed with children of regal and royal standing, wise men and prophets. We learn this from Tamar and Rut the Moabite. A woman who is careful with her modesty even at home is fit to marry the Cohen Gadol. A modest woman brings atonement for her husband and her family. Therefore, women must be especially careful to always exercise as much modesty as possible, even at home and especially outside, whether walking, sitting, standing, eating, or with her form and style of clothing. One is forbidden to go near a place that women bathe or swim. Our Sages teach us that a woman who exposes herself or dresses immodestly will not be grouped with her family in the world to come. She will be placed outside of her family's group and cry in painful regret over what she had done to deserve this. Therefore, women, please have mercy on yourselves and on the livelihood of your husbands, and be careful with the laws of the Torah concerning modesty. May Hashem watch over us, Amen.

Rishon LeTzion -Maran Chacham Ovadia Yosef (1921–2013)

When *Maran* wrote his first sefer, *Yabia Omer*, *Maran* received an award on which it was written: "People are accustomed to thinking that the Torah has gradually weakened from the Sephardic community, its horn has lowered, and its radiance, splendor, and beauty have departed. But it is not so. At least, not to the extent that people think. The light of *Hashem* has not yet gone out among the Sephardim, and from time to time, we also encounter them in deep literary creations. And what is the most excellent and important of these books—the book '*Yabi'a Omer*,' whose author is young in years, yet his name has already spread as a giant in Torah, and the author is worthy of recognition. And he was indeed recognized, *Maran Chacham Ovadia Yosef Shlita* (Alav Hashalom)." The second wonderful series among his sefarim is the questions and answers in *Yachaveh Da'at*, and he began to compile them from the year 1937 and completed it in the year 1984. And why did he call its name *Yachaveh Da'at*? Because in numerical value (*Gematria*), it

equals: Ovadia Yosef ben Ya'akov. This book consists of six volumes, containing 445 questions and answers, most of which were renewed in the wake of innovations, technology, and in all fields of *Halacha*. At the time of printing the book *Yachaveh Da'at*, the owner of the printing press lost the final page of the book and called *Maran*, informing him that the page was lost. *Maran* immediately arrived at the press and wrote the entire final page from memory by heart. Sometime later, the original manuscript of the Rabbi was found, and it matched exactly with everything he had written by heart from his memory.

Damascus - Capital of Syria

Damascus was a city of refuge for the Jews of *Eretz Yisrael*, particularly during the days of the Crusader wars in the year 1230. In the year 1490, the number of Damascus Jews was 5,000, and some of them settled in the village of Jobar, where there is an ancient synagogue named after *Elisha HaNabi*. The *Tanna Rabbi Elazar ben Arach* was also there. In the year 1600, a stream of exiles from Spain arrived in Damascus, and then an economic and spiritual elevation was felt. Over time, the Jews of Damascus merged with the exiles and became a single unit. In the year 1650, the holy Kabbalist, the student of the *Arizal*, *Rabbi Chaim Vital*, came to Damascus, and also the poet *Rabbi Yisrael Najara* came to Damascus with his father, *Rabbi Moshe*, who was a *Rosh Yeshiva* and authored his books *Lekach Tob*. His son, *Rabbi Yisrael*, served as a *Hazzan*, speaker, and *Sofer*. During that same period, the Rabbi of Damascus was *Rabbi Yoshiyahu Pinto*. In the year 1700, Damascus became known as a great city for *Hashem*. A wave of enthusiasm for the false prophet Shabbetai Tzebi also swept over the Jews of Damascus, but the Jews suffered from the Turkish governors, the oppressors of the Jews, who were *Baibars Muhammad* and his son.

Laws: The Week of Tisha B'Av

- 1 – The week of the 9th of Av starts on Saturday night July 18th and ends after Wednesday July 22nd which is Erev Tisha B'Av.
- 2 – Haircuts and shaving are forbidden for males of all ages. The Mohel, Sandak, and father of the baby are also not allowed. Women are permitted.
- 3 – Nail cutting is prohibited by some, unless the nails are very long.
- 4 – Laundry may not be cleaned, even if the clothing will be used after the 9th of Av.

5 – One may not wear clean clothing. If he will need a change of clothing, he should prepare them before Shabbat by wearing them for a half hour and putting them away for that week. If one must prepare the clothing during Shabbat, he should change clothing during periodic intervals; after Arbit, after Shacharit, and after Mincha.

6 – Even clean bed sheets and towels must be prepared before Shabbat and must not be used if freshly laundered. One may wash clothing for children 3 years and younger.

7 – Showers with hot water are prohibited. Cold showers are permitted. One who swims in the ocean mixed with men and women is sinning terribly and should repent and change his ways immediately.

8 – One may not sew new clothing during this week. Some are strict and start from Rosh Hodesh. However, one may mend and fix damaged clothing or shoes.

9 – New clothing or shoes may not be purchased during this week. However, shoes used during the 9th of Av may be purchased and should be worn for a little time before the 9th of Av.

10 – Meat and poultry are prohibited to consume after Rosh Hodesh until and including the 10th of Av. Fish is permitted.

11 – Leftover meat from Rosh Hodesh or from Shabbat Chazon is prohibited according to some opinions but there are those who are lenient. However, you can eat this leftover meat for Melave Malka even Lechatchila and there is no stringency at all, as long as extra food was not prepared for this purpose. Young children who cannot grasp the ideas behind the destruction of the temple, until ages 7-8, are allowed to eat meat. If a child under 13 is weak or sick, he may eat meat.

12 – One may use a meat pot, that was even used that day for meat, in order to cook a meal or dish that doesn't include meat.

13 – Food cooked for Shabbat Chazon, even with meat, may be tasted on Friday, as it is a Mitzvah in honor of Shabbat to taste the food. The strict will be blessed.

14 – One may not drink wine from Rosh Hodesh Av, unless it is for Havdalah. Beer is permitted.

15 – Meat and wine may not be consumed on the 10th of Av since most of the Hechal was destroyed on that day.

Sponsors

***** Mr. Eli Cohen, his wife Rina, their children and their parents.** Blessings and success for the entire family, Amen ***** Blessed brothers Shlomo, David, Houdar, Yosef and Shela of the Ballas family.** Blessings and success for the entire family, Leilui Nishmat **Marco Ben Kahila a”h,** Leilui Nishmat **Moshe Ben Evon a”h,** Leilui Nishmat **Evon Bat Nazli a”h,** Amen ***** Mr. Eli Levy, his wife Becky, and their children.** Blessings, success and health for the entire family, Amen ***** Blessed brothers Solly and Hillel Bawabeh and their sisters.** Blessings and success for the entire family, Leilui Nishmat their father **Yitzhak Zaki Bawabeh Ben Simha 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 ***** Mr. Victor Harari and his brothers.** Blessings and success for the entire family, Leilui Nishmat their mother **Janet Bat Zakieh 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. ***** 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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