

CONGREGATION BETH ISRAEL  
OF THE PALISADES

קהילת קדושה בית ישראל  
של הפליסיידס

*An egalitarian Conservative synagogue*

PARASHA ACHREI MOT  
MAY 4, 2024 - 26 NISAN 5784



כִּי-בַיּוֹם הַזֶּה  
יִכַפֵּר עֲלֵיכֶם  
לְטָהֳרָתְכֶם  
בְּחַטֹּאתֵיכֶם  
לִפְנֵי ה' תִּטְהָרוּ



**This is because on this day you shall have all your sins atoned, so that you will be cleansed. Before God you will be cleansed of all your sins.**

**Leviticus 16:30**

אֲחֵרֵי מוֹת

PARSHOT ACHAREY  
TORAH – LEVITICUS 16:1 – 18:30  
HAFTARAH – AMOS 9:7-15 (A) – EZEKIEL 22:1-16 (S)

## **ACHAREY MOT**

This Shabbat we bless the New Month of Iyar and Rosh Chodesh begins on Wednesday May 8 and Thursday. May it bring to us the blessings of Hashem.

It has been said that knowing when to speak and when to remain silent is the essence of character. Perhaps, this is what Hashem had in mind when he designed the human tongue.

What differentiates man from Hashem's other creations is the ability to express our thoughts through speech. So powerful is the tongue, say our sages, that our Creator restrained it like no other organ. The tongue is enclosed by the lips as well as the teeth to teach us to use the gift of speech very carefully.

As our Parsha begins, we find Hashem speaking to Moshe with instructions for Aharon, Moshe's brother, the Kohain Gadol. Aharon had just suffered the devastating loss of his two sons, Nadav and Avehu and was about to perform the Yom Kippur Service. This is the same great leader, Aharon the peacemaker, who was known for using his words to bring people together.

Indeed, as we begin Pirkei Avot once again on the first Shabbat after Pesach, we find the name of Aharon in the very first chapter. "Ohev Shalom V'rodef Shalom, Ohev Et Habriot Umekarvan Latorah," [1:12]. The students of Aharon continued his legacy: loving peace and pursuing it; loving Hashem's creations and bringing them closer to Torah. Aharon knew how to carefully select his words, and turn them into Mitzvot. What was Aharon's response when his beloved sons died when they attempted to approach Hashem?

Did Aharon protest? Did he ask why this happened? Did he doubt Hashem? There is a time to speak and there are times when one's silence is more eloquent than words can ever be. What great act of faith - what powerful statement did Aharon make when faced with a personal family tragedy? "...Vayidom Aharon," and Aharon was silent [Vayikra 10:3]. He accepted the will of Hashem and went on with his life of Mitzvot.

### **THOUGHT QUESTION OF THE WEEK**

Our Sages connect the passing of Aharon's sons with the concept of repentance on Yom Kippur. What do these ideas have in common? We also learned about the Torah's view on resentment and revenge. How do we apply this concept as we are also required to eradicate evil?

## **ACHAREY MOT ALIYAH SUMMARY**

**General Overview:** This week's reading, *Acharei*, begins with a detailed description of the service of the High Priest on Yom Kippur. The Torah then discusses prohibitions against offering sacrifices outside the Temple, consuming blood, and incestuous, adulterous, or other forbidden relationships.

**First Aliyah:** The High Priest is instructed to only enter the Holy of Holies chamber of the sanctuary once a year, on Yom Kippur; and even on this holiest day of the year, the entry into the Temple's inner sanctum must be accompanied by a special service and specific offerings which are detailed in this reading. The High Priest was only permitted to enter amidst a cloud of burning incense. Also, special white garments were worn by the High Priest on this day. While offering the day's sacrifices, the High Priest would "confess" on behalf of the entire nation, attaining atonement for the past year's sins.

**Second Aliyah:** This section continues the description of the special Yom Kippur service. The procedure of the "scapegoat" ceremony is described in this aliyah.

**Third Aliyah:** After concluding the order of the Yom Kippur service in the Temple, the Torah instructs us to observe Yom Kippur as a Day of Atonement when we must abstain from work and "afflict" ourselves.

**Fourth Aliyah:** The Jews are forbidden to offer sacrifices anywhere other than the Tabernacle or Temple.

**Fifth Aliyah:** We are enjoined not to consume blood. When slaughtering fowl or undomesticated animals, we are commanded to cover their blood with earth. The Jews are admonished not to follow the depraved ways of the Egyptians and Canaanites.

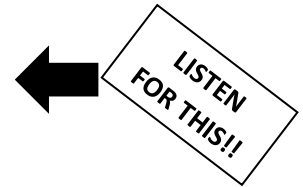
**Sixth Aliyah:** Continuing on the above theme, the Torah provides a list of prohibited sexual relationships. The list includes adultery, cohabiting with a menstruating woman, and forbidden close relatives.

**Seventh Aliyah:** The prohibitions against homosexuality and bestiality are mentioned. The Jews are then warned that engaging in these forbidden relationships will result in their expulsion from the Land of Israel — a holy land which cannot tolerate immoral behavior.

DID YOU KNOW.....

Were you ever called for an Aliya? “YA-AMOD.....” Everyone is familiar with the call. BUT did you ever listen carefully to the FIRST call – the one for the Kohein to be honored with the first Aliya? It is different, and goes like this:

וַיַּעֲזֹר וַיִּגַּן וַיִּוְשִׁיעַ לְכָל־הַחֹסִים בּוֹ, וַנֹּאמֶר אָמֵן. הַכֹּל הָבֹו  
גָדֹל לֵאלֹהֵינוּ, וַתִּנּוּ כְבוֹד לַתּוֹרָה. [בַּת כַּהֵן, קָרַב. תַּעֲמֹד  
בַּת \_\_\_\_\_ הַבַּת כַּהֵן.] בְּרוּךְ שָׁנְתָן תּוֹרָה לְעַמּוֹ  
יִשְׂרָאֵל בְּקִדְשָׁתוֹ.

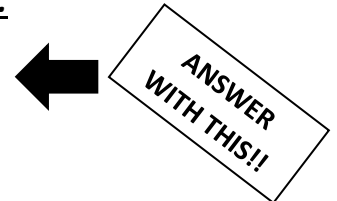


Now here is the point – after Gabbai 1 makes this call, **WE ALL SHOULD ANSWER:**

וְאַתֶּם הַדְּבָקִים בִּיהוָה אֱלֹהֵיכֶם, חַיִּים כְּלַכֶּם הַיּוֹם.

*V-atem had-vaykeem badonai Elohaychem chayeem kul-chem hayom.*

You who cling to God have been sustained to this day.



It will make Rabbi Wasser *very* happy!!!!

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COMPILED BY GABBAI FRED

Yahrzeits for: Friday 5/3/2024

- \* Mrs. Rose Moskowitz
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Yahrzeits for: Sunday 5/5/2024

- \* Mr. Abraham Haber
  - \* Mrs. Molly Weider
  - Mr. Emil Wingens                      Grandfather of                      Mr. Gary Wingens
  - Mrs. Gertruce Wingens              Grandmother of                      Mr. Gary Wingens
- 

Yahrzeits for: Tuesday 5/7/2024

- \* Mr. Pincus Cohen
  - Mr. Arnold Helfeld                      Brother of                      Mrs. Elaine Evans
- 

Yahrzeits for: Wednesday 5/8/2024

- \* Mrs. Anna Faren
  - \* Mattie Lowenbraun
- 

Yahrzeits for: Thursday 5/9/2024

- \* Mr. Louis Felsen
  - \* Mr. Norman Schatell
  - \* Mr. Sol Star
- 

Yahrzeits for: Friday 5/10/2024

- \* Mr. Herman Blumenthal



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