

KOL MEVASSER

Facing our Faces

By Rabbi Marc D. Angel
jewishideas.org

In his book, "Creativity, The Magic Synthesis" (Basic Books, 1976), the late psychiatrist Dr. Silvano Arieti discussed the process of creating a work of art. The artist perceives something directly and then attempts to interpret it through imagery. Various processes are at work. "Preceding thoughts and feelings about an object affect the way he perceives it directly. In other words, past experiences of the object—everything he knows and feels about it—influence the way he sees that object" (p. 194).

This is true not only of artists, but of everyone. How we perceive reality is shaped by our memories, sensitivities, experiences and our general attitudes. Different people can see the identical thing...but have entirely different reactions. An optimist and a pessimist experience the half-filled glass of water based on their own internal worldviews.

This week's Torah portion describes the components for building the Mishkan, the sanctuary that accompanied the Israelites during their wanderings in the wilderness. Among the features was a table upon which the "lehem hapanim"—showbreads--were to be placed. Vayikra 24:5-9 notes that there were to be 12 loaves arranged in two rows, and that these loaves were to be replaced each week on the Sabbath.

The term "lehem hapanim" is not easy to translate. While the usual translation is "showbreads," it also has been translated as bread of the Presence, or more literally as bread of the faces. The Hassidic Rebbe Avraham Mordechai of Gur offered a unique insight into the "lehem hapanim." Each person who looked at the bread could see an image of his or her own face! A pious, kind and faithful person would see the bread as being fresh and warm. A cynical, mean and skeptical person would see the bread as being stale and cold. The "lehem hapanim" reflected the face—and the inner being—of the observer.

The bread was the same bread: but the experience of the bread varied according to the personality of the person who observed it. The lesson: one must strive to develop a positive worldview so as to be able to experience life in a positive way.

This idea is also reflected in a teaching of the Kotsker Rebbe on Shemoth 15:23: "And when they came to Marah, they could not drink of the waters of Marah, for they [i.e. the waters] were bitter." The plain meaning of the text is that the Israelites couldn't drink the water because it was too bitter. The Kotsker Rebbe, though, interpreted the verse as follows: "And when they came to Marah, they could not drink of the waters of Marah, for they—the Israelites—were bitter." Because they were in a foul and bitter mood, everything seemed wrong, even the water tasted bitter. Reality was experienced through the prism of a negative worldview.

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KJ Schedule Parashat Terumah

Erev Shabbat & Rosh Hodesh Adar

Friday, February 20th

Shaharit / Morning Prayer ...6:15 am
Shabbat Candle Lighting . 5:23 pm
Minha / Arbit5:23 pm

Shabbat / Parashat Terumah

Saturday, February 21st

Shaharit/Morning Prayer8:30 am
Rabbi Bouskila, Shabbat Speaker
Minha, Seudah, Arvit5:00 pm
Motzei Shabbat / Havdala....6:27 pm

Weekdays

Sunday, February 22nd

Shaharit7:30 am
Talmud Torah 10:00 am

Monday to Friday, Feb 23 to 27

Shaharit / Morning Prayer ...6:30 am

Erev Shabbat

Friday, February 27th

Shaharit / Morning Prayer ...6:15 am
Shabbat Candle Lighting . 5:29 pm
Minha / Arbit5:29 pm

Sponsor a Booth
at KJ's Purim Carnival
Full Booth—\$500
Half Booth—\$250
Call Sarah@310.474.0559

Happy Rosh Hodesh Adar

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Judeo-Spanish-speaking Jews would refer to some people as “mal de contentar,” malcontents who never seemed satisfied with life. Others were “cara de Tisha b’Av,” people with sour, sad outlooks, whose faces always seemed to be in a Tisha b’Av mood. But, fortunately, there were also those with “cara de risas,” smiling, happy faces who added cheer wherever they were. And there were “bonachos,” and “bonachas” whose goodness shone from their faces and whose company was always welcome.

We each have the power to define who we are and how we face life. We each shape our external experiences by our internal attitudes. Shabbat Shalom

Kahal Joseph Events

Purim Baking for KJ Baskets

Sunday, March 1st @ 10:00 am

Participate in a two-fold mitzvah—prepare traditional Iraqi baked delights to include in KJ’s community gift baskets for Purim, also known as Mishloah Manot. These special baskets are sent to individuals experiencing challenging life events.

KJ Purim Carnival

Sunday, March 8th • 11 am to 4 pm

Great food. Fabulous prizes. Ride & game booth. Wristbands \$20. Or \$1 Tickets usable for rides & food. Please note: for the safety of our children & parents, our annual Purim carnival will be held inside the synagogue. *Have a blast and be a carnival volunteer! E-mail dafnayoung@gmail.com*

Sponsor a Full Booth \$500 • Half Booth \$250

Contact Sarah at 310.474.0559

Shabbat Kiddush
is sponsored in memory of
Mazaltov bat Sarah, z”l
Yaacov ben Binyamin Elia, z”l
by
Rylla & Ben Elias

Shabbat Speaker
Rabbi Daniel Bouskila
Director, Sephardic Educational Center
**"Are Today's Synagogues
Spiritually Attractive?"**

In the Community . . .

SEC Hamsa Teens at the Santa Monica Pier
Saturday, February 21st, 7:30 to 10:30 pm, \$20
Includes unlimited ride wristband, Nagila pizza, Coffee Bean hot cocoa & refreshments.

Sephardic Mini Course with Rabbi Bouskila
Tuesday, February 24th at 7:00 pm “Haim Sabato: Contemporary Sephardic Storyteller”
Select readings from Sabato’s bestselling modern Sephardic novels & discussion with Rabbi Bouskila at the Jewish Federation Bldg, No charge. RSVP required to 323-272-4574 or info@secjerusalem.org.

“Escape from Iraq” with Joe Samuels
Adult Education Series at Mishkon Tephilo
Sunday, February 22nd 2015

Lecture at 10:30 am; Breakfast at 10:00 am, \$10
Fearing for his life after Iraq lost its war against Israel in 1948, Joe Samuels smuggled out of Iraq and arrived in Israel as a refugee. He has published a number of articles on his experience.

Refuah Shlemah
Moselle Amron • Maurice Ovadia
Abe Abraham • Sassoon Ezra • Tilda Levy

In Memoriam

We remember these yahrzeit anniversaries for February 21 to 28, 2015. It is customary to light a memorial candle, donate tzedaka, & attend services the preceding Shabbat.

2 Adar / Shabbat, February 21st

Abraham Aslan Avraham ben Menashe

Aaron J. Moses Aharon ben Yosef

Joseph Faraj Moses Yoseph Faraj ben Yoseph Haim

3 Adar / Sunday, February 22nd

Yoseph Avrahamy Yoseph ben Avraham

Farang Jahanbani

Herschel Tzvi Sarne

Abraham Shalom Avraham Shalom ben Shaul Sopher

4 Adar / Monday, February 23rd

Simy Bensabat Simy ben Mesody

Baacker Jalali Baacker ben Avraham

5 Adar / Tuesday, February 24th

Sami Dallal

Leah bat Mozli

6 Adar / Wednesday, February 25th

Molly Jonah Mazeltov bat Sara

7 Adar / Thursday, February 26th

Gerry Shapiro Gershon ben David

8 Adar / Friday, February 27th

Abraham Avrahamy Avraham ben Yosef

Jacob Benjamin Elias Yaacov Binyamin Elia

David Kay David ben Yaacov Yehuda Yehezkel

9 Adar / Shabbat, February 28th

Irena Stoler

Torah & Haftara Readings

Torah from the Book of Exodus/Shemot;

Parashat Terumah 326 to 336

Haftara from Kings I / Melachim Alef 336 to 338