

# KOL MEVASSER

## Abandoning the Ship

By Rabbi Marc D. Angel

The tragic sinking of a South Korean ship, killing so many passengers, has caught the world's attention in recent weeks. One of the most disgusting images from this debacle was the photograph of the ship's captain...who abandoned ship early in the disaster, saving his own life and leaving the passengers...to die.

Captains are not supposed to abandon ship. When they assume leadership, they are expected to put the lives of their passengers ahead of their own lives.

Leadership entails responsibility of the first magnitude. If a person is not up to this responsibility, he/she should not accept it. Leadership is not a game, not a means of obtaining a fancy title and good pay. Leadership is a total commitment; it demands the highest degree of integrity and good judgment.

Just as we are deeply disappointed in the shameful behavior of the ship captain who abandoned his ship, so we are upset with "leaders" in other walks of life who also lack the gravitas and responsibility of leadership. They put their own needs and pleasures first. They seek prestigious titles and positions and compensation packages—but their first interest is themselves, not the constituents.

Polls continually show that the public is disgusted with politicians who abuse their positions

to advance their own fame and fortune. The public does not feel that its elected officials put the needs of the public first; rather, many feel that the politicians are in it for their own ego gratification and wealth production.

Leaders of corporations, institutions and organizations are expected to take their responsibilities seriously. Yet, so often we learn of "leaders" of companies who take massive pay, even while their companies do poorly, even while workers are being laid off. We read of institutions—religious and secular—where the top officers are paid tremendous amounts and given many honors; and yet, these top officers will "jump ship" when a better offer turns up. For such individuals, loyalty and commitment to constituents are far less important than their own self-promotion. Such "leaders" are not driven by a sense of mission for the greater good; they are driven by the desire to advance their own interests as best as they can. They surround themselves with a clique of powerful supporters, and conduct themselves as though the rest of the public doesn't really matter. But when crisis or danger arise, these "leaders" slip off the ship in order to preserve themselves and their own interests.

This week's Torah portion describes laws of purity that apply to Cohanim. In ancient times, the Cohanim were the priests who conducted the rites of the Mishkan/Temple; the Cohanim were charged with providing religious leadership to the people of Israel. While the purity laws relate to ritual matters, I think they also

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## KJ Schedule Parashat Emor

### Erev Shabbat / Friday, May 2nd

Shaharit/Morning Prayer .....	6:30 am
Shir Hashirim .....	6:45 pm
Shabbat Candlelighting .....	7:19 pm
Minhah/Arbith .....	7:00 pm

### Shabbat Emor / Saturday, May 3rd

Shaharit/Morning Prayer .....	8:30 am
Minha, Seudah Shlisheet, Arvit .....	6:50 pm
Motzei Shabbat / Havdallah .....	8:23 pm

### Weekdays / Sunday, May 4th

Shaharit .....	7:30 am
Talmud Torah .....	10:00 am
David Kelly KJ Youth Choir .....	11:30 am

### Yom HaZikaron / Monday, May 5th, 2014

Shaharit .....	6:30 am
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### Israel Independence Day

### Yom HaAtzmaut / Tuesday, May 6th, 2014

Shaharit .....	6:30 am
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### Wednesday to Friday, May 7 to 9

Shaharit .....	6:30 am
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### Erev Shabbat / Friday, May 9th

Shaharit/Morning Prayer .....	6:30 am
Shir Hashirim .....	6:45 pm
Shabbat Candlelighting .....	7:24 pm
Minhah/Arbith .....	7:00 pm

Special Shabbat to Celebrate  
Israel's Independence  
Saturday, May 10th at KJ  
during morning services



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suggest a larger idea. The Cohanim—as religious leaders—were expected to be pure, to be devoted to God and to the people, to cleanse themselves of moral blemishes. If the Cohanim did not maintain the highest standards of integrity and commitment, this would inevitably undermine the morale and moral fiber of the community at large.

Indeed, when the priesthood became mired in power struggles and political manipulations, the spiritual health of the entire community was imperiled. During the late Hasmonean period, the office of High Priest went to the highest bidder or to the man who had the best political connections. The public lost respect not merely for the priesthood, but for what the priests were supposed to teach and represent. Fortunately, some great rabbis emerged who were able to re-channel the religious aspirations of the community so as to maintain the framework of a genuine religious life. Those rabbis were true leaders, devoting themselves selflessly to the public even at great personal sacrifice.

It has been pointed out that people view their work in different ways. For some, work is a job. The goal is to receive a pay check. For others, work is seen in the context of a career. They hold a position not merely to receive pay, but to climb a professional ladder so as to receive greater pay and higher authority. But for others, work is a mission. The goal is not merely to get paid or to advance professionally. The goal is to fulfill one's ideals. The goal is to devote oneself to meaningful work that will benefit others.

## Shabbat Kiddush

is sponsored in memory of

Shimon Faraj Iny, z"l

by Tikva & Yoel Iny  
and Family

### Refuah Shlemah

Rahel bat Marcel

Mordechai Cohen / Mordecai ben Avraham

Moselle Amron/Mazal Tov bat Salha Matana

Tilda Levy / Tilda bat Miriam

Joseph Sharaf / Yossef ben Jamila

Maurice Ovadia / Moshe ben Noosha

Pnina Herzbrun / Pnina bat Esther

Michael Herzbrun / Michael Baruch ben Sarah



David Kelly YOUTH CHOIR

Rabbi Batzri, Director

Welcome Back

Next Meeting Sunday, May 4th@11:30 am

Most people work at jobs or careers. Genuine leaders must work from a sense of mission. Without that absolute, pure commitment, their leadership is faulty, even dangerous. People need and respect leaders upon whom they can depend.

A responsible and honorable captain does not abandon ship.

## In Memoriam

We remember these yahrzeit anniversaries for May 3 to 10, 2014. It is customary to light a memorial candle, donate tzedaka, & attend services the preceding Shabbat.

### 3 Iyar / Shabbat, May 3rd

Hanina Cohen *Hanina bat Chahla*

Nedat Joshua Farahi *Yehoshua ben Yehezkel*  
Sassoon Benjamin Gemal *Sasson ben Binyamin*

### 4 Iyar / Sunday, May 4th

Binyamin Sheff *Binyamin ben Hasia*

### 5 Iyar / Monday, May 5th

Simon Faraj Iny *Shimon ben Faraj*

Louise Mendel *Aziza bat Nouna*

### 6 Iyar / Sunday, May 6th

Jane Ester Feldman

Sophie Moses *Tifaha bat Mazal*

### 7 Iyar / Wednesday, May 7th

Ezra Jacob Baruch *Ezra ben Yaacov*

Aaron A. David *Aharon Sasson ben Avraham Haim*

Ellis Levi *Eliyahu ben Ezra Kadoori Halevi*

Rachel Moses *Rahel bat Mazal Tov*

### 8 Iyar / Thursday, May 8th

Toba Mussry *Toba bat Aziza*

Ezra A. Haim Salim

### 9 Iyar / Friday, May 9th

Menashi Jiji

Haim Moche *Moshi Haim ben Yehoshua*

Sima Sassoon *Simcha bat Hannah*

### 10 Iyar / Shabbat, May 10th

Ramah Ezra *Rahmah bat Lulu Khatoon*

Abraham Shaye *Avraham Amir Saed Zoghee*  
*ben Asher Michael*

## Torah & Haftarah Readings

Vayikra / Leviticus: Emor TBA

Haftara TBA