

KOL MEVASSER

Rabbi's Message

In this week's episode of Agents of S. H. I. E. L. D., a running theme between two villains is an argument over the importance of tradition and the past.

The voice of "the old ways" comes from Anton Ivanov, head of a terrorist group called The Watchdogs. When we first meet him, he drinks a shot of vodka and breathes from a freshly cut onion, explaining that this is a time-honored Russian way to enhance the flavor of the drink. Gossiping with his victim, he takes a moment to regret the loss of custom in today's society. "What kind of world are we living in," he asks, "when distillers flavor their vodka with vanilla?!"

On the side of modernity is Dr. Holden Radcliffe, a mad scientist who has been both a friend and an enemy throughout the series. His passion is cutting-edge research on the mind, which he uses to design sophisticated robots. These lifelike humanoids are so convincing that he can succeed as an anti-hero without hurting people. Instead of resorting to violence, he gets what he wants with manipulation and deceit.

As their conversation unfolds, they keep coming back to the phrase "built to last." For Ivanov, past generations' attention to detail and workmanship allowed him to pursue his goals as a villain (or a visionary, as he sees it). While modern technology could break or be hacked, nothing beats good, old-fashioned muscle and cold, hard steel. Radcliffe, on the other hand, sees



the mind as a tool for improving on older accomplishments. Why settle for something mediocre if the next best thing is just around the corner?

Though they are both unsavory characters in a fictional TV show, this argument brings out some of the most relevant questions that the real Jewish community faces today: how dominating a role should the past play in our present?

So much of what makes our spiritual lives meaningful is our sense of connection to events that took place long ago. Our worship, our customs, and the way we treat our fellow humans are constantly shaped by the Torah and the thousands of years of traditions that developed around it. Yet few Jews take that to the extreme of living entirely in the past, and the communities that do have succeeded at a heavy price.

If our Judaism is going to be "built to last" in a society where most of us embrace modernity, it would best be served by the mad scientist's model of building on what came before to enrich our world today. Certainly there is a spiritual richness that comes from the chain of continuity between us and God's revelation – we value that and constantly draw inspiration from it. But the true power of this chain is that it is always growing: each generation adds their own link as they rise to a new set of challenges.

Parashat Bo is the climax of our miraculous Exodus from Egypt. God commands us to remember it every day, and this mantra opens us up for tradition to influence our actions. Yet we must not forget that these actions most meaningful in the world before us now: the Torah is our inheritance, and it teaches us how to live in 2017.

Parashat Bo

Exodus from Egypt

Torah: Ex. 10:1–13:16, 106 Pesukim
Hertz 248–262; Stone 340–365
Haftara (Iraqis): Is. 19:1–25
Handout; not in the Hertz or Stone
Tefillot: Mashiv Haruah, Birkat
Halevana

KJ Schedule

Erev Shabbat

Friday, February 3rd

Shaharit..... 6:25 am
Candle lighting 5:07 pm
Minha 5:00 pm
Kabbalat Shabbat / Arvit 5:30 pm

Yom Shabbat

Saturday, February 4th

Shaharit / Morning Prayer 8:30 am
Keri'at HaTorah 10:15 am
Musaf 11:45 am

Women's Tehillim..... 4:00 pm
Minha 4:30 pm
Se'uda Shelisheet 5:15 pm
Arvit 5:55 pm
Havdala 6:12 pm

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Special Iraqi Haftarot for Parashiyot Shemot and Bo

On Parashiyot Shemot and Bo each year, Iraqi Jews read a Haftara that is different from the custom of most of the rest of the Jewish community.



These Haftarot are known so little that they are not even mentioned in most Humashim, including the ones we have at Kahal Joseph. Our custom of passing them out on special sheets has been a tradition of Babylonian Jewry for more than 100 years.

When Rabbi Melhado was making the current sheets, he used an old pamphlet from Baghdad that was left to Kahal by the family of **Abe Abraham**. We are pleased to make this text available for download, along with another Haftara pamphlet from his estate:

www.kahaljoseph.org/iraqi-books

Shabbat Shalom Umvorakh

Shabbat Kiddush

is sponsored
In loving memory of
**Shaul ben Shimon Haim
Saberi, z"l**
by Shimon & Miriam Saberi
and Family

Mazal Tov

Sandi and David Salehani
on the birth of their baby boy
Besiman Tov to siblings
Mason and Chanel
and to grandparents
Akhtar and Khosrow Banishahi
Florence Azizian
and the entire family

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Sunday, February 5th

Shaharit 7:30 am
Talmud Torah..... 9:45 am

Monday to Friday, February 6th to 10th

Shaharit 6:25 am

Next Shabbat - Tu Bishvat!

Friday & Saturday Feb 10th & 11th

Shabbat Candle lighting 5:14 pm
Friday Minha 5:00 pm
Shaharit 8:30 am
Saturday Minha 4:30 pm
Havdala 6:18 pm

Tu Bishvat Hike at Will Rogers Park

Sunday, February 12th at 10:00 am

In Memoriam

We remember these yahrzeit anniversaries from February 4 to 11, 2017. It is customary to light a memorial candle, donate tzedaka & attend Shabbat services.

8 Shevat / Shabbat, February 4th

Ezra Ekaireb *Ezra Sion ben David*
F. Ellis Meyer *Eliyahoo Faraj ben Abraham Shalom*
Rebecca Mizrahie *Rivka bat Toba*
Edward Shashoua *Sion Edward ben Elisha*

9 Shevat / Sunday, February 5th

Saul Zakoo *Shaul Hai ben Ezra Halevy*

10 Shevat / Monday, February 6th

Naima Dabby *Naima bat Chahla*

11 Shevat/ Tuesday, February 7th

Malacj Khamani *Serah bat Simcha*

12 Shevat / Wednesday, February 8th

Abraham M. Cohen *Avraham Shalom Mordechai*
Yitzhak Hacohen
Matthew Ellenhorn *Matatehu ben Shmuel*
Maurice Kadoorie *Moshe ben Saleh*
Rachel bat Masooda

13 Shevat/ Thursday, February 9th

Sheila Cohen *Sulha Khatoon bat Rivka*
Nanejan Davoudian *Nanejan bat Hacham Mola Rebbi*
Alex Sassoon

14 Shevat/ Friday, February 10th

Shaul Saberi *Shaul ben Shimon Haim*
Albert Harry Saltoun *Avdala ben Eliyahu*

15 Shevat / Shabbat, February 11th

Joseph Mussry
David Sarraf *David ben Ezra*

Refu'a Shelema

Moselle Amron • Sally Amron • Haskell Avrahamy
Sylvia Cohen • Simcha bat Rooha • Mordechai Cohen
Esther Duke • Sassoon Ezra • Lev Hakak • Yoel Iny
Tilda Levy • Florice Newberry • Maurice Ovadia
Grace Tizabi • Katie bat Farha • Miriam bat Yetta
Aliza bat Rahel • Aliza bat Victoria
Adam Moshe Chaim ben Olga

CHALLAH BAKE AT KAHAL



Thank you to all who attended our Challah Bake on Sunday, January 29. It was a wonderful afternoon of learning and friendship. Special thanks to Louise & David Elias, Rabbi and Jessica Melhado, Penina Meghnagi Solomon, and Rosa Maldonado for their help with the event!

Tu Bishvat Community Hike

**Sunday, Feb. 12
@ Will Rogers State
Historical Park**

**Play games, enjoy a hike on the
gentle incline of the Inspiration
Loop, learn more about
Judaism & nature, see friends
and more!**

10:00 - Outdoor games

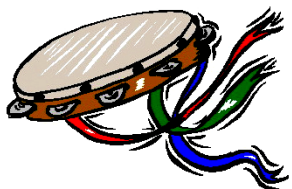
10:30 - Inspirational Hike

**11:30 - "Appreciating
Nature" with the Melhados
& Mora Molly**

12:00 - BYO picnic lunch

**Bring lunch, water, sunglasses,
sunscreen, hats, hiking clothes
and shoes, sense of fun**

**RSVP to Jessica at
Jessica@kahaljoseph.org**



MOMMY & ME

Winter Session

Thursdays - Music & Movement

10:00 - 11:00 - 18 to 24 months

11:30 - 12:30 - 9 to 16 months

1:15 - 2:15 - 8 to 14 months

Fridays - Shabbat

10:00 - 11:00 - 18 to 30 months

11:30 - 12:30 - 11 to 17 months

8 sessions starting January 19 * \$225 per child per session

Questions? Jessica@kahaljoseph.org

To register www.playcreationskids.org



Scholar in Residence

February 17 - 18

Parashat Yitro

Rabbi Ben Hassan

Sephardic Bikkur Holim, Seattle

Born in Manchester, England, Rabbi Hassan received semikha from Rabbi Riskin and Rabbi Zalman Nechemia Goldberg after studying at Yeshivat Hamivtar in Israel.

After being the rabbi at Sassoon Yehuda Sephardi Synagogue in Melbourne, Australia, he came to Sephardic Bikkur Holim in August 2013.

“Lo Tahmod/Do Not Covet - Come on God, Give me a Break!”

Young Professionals (20s & 30s) Shabbat Dinner

Friday, February 17 at 6:30PM

Join Rabbis Hassan and Melhado and their families for a delicious dinner and an interesting discussion. Free! RSVP to rabbimelhado@kahaljoseph.org.

**Saturday, February 18 -
Special Seuda Shelisheet**

Purim Save the Date

Sunday, March 5 at 10:00 AM

Purim Baking

Saturday, March 11

Megillah Reading & more after Shabbat

Sunday March 12

Morning Megillah, Purim Carnival, & Board Elections