

KOL MEVASSER

Rabbi's Message

At the impeachment trial of Warren Hastings, the first Governor-General of what would become British India, prosecutor Edmund Burke argued passionately that the same standards of law and morality should apply to everyone:

"There is but one law for all, namely that law which governs all law, the law of our Creator, the law of humanity, justice, equity – the law of nature and of nations."

His vision carries a strong echo of Parashat Bo from just a few weeks ago, when we read the first large group of mitsvot that the Israelites were given as a people. All 20 of those commandments had a nationwide scope: the creation of a public calendar, the requirements of Pesah, and the rituals of the firstborn. Yet instead of giving special treatment to Israelite nationals over the newcomers in our midst, God expresses the same egalitarian spirit that Burke later would: *"There will be only one Torah for the citizen; and the stranger who lives among you"* (Ex. 12:49).

This idea of a universal law is so important that God teaches it before performing the Exodus or revealing Himself at Sinai. Parashat Mishpatim may give us more mitsvot than all seventeen of the *parashiyot* before it combined, but we cannot begin the process of accepting and learning about those commandments until we recognize that the Torah is a global document with relevance to everyone. The Midrash even claims that God gave the Torah in the unsettled desert to emphasize that it cannot be the private property of any one group of people (Mekhilta to Yitro, Mesekhta Debahodesh 1).



Yet how challenging it must have been for the Israelites to accept this! Even at such an early moment, when we were literally hearing these commandments for the first time, we were a deeply divided nation. Already in Joseph's day, we had separated into tribes that each tried to maintain a distinct identity, and at the Exodus we also absorbed the Erev-Rav, a "mixed multitude" of people who only recently converted (Ex. 12:38). Given the many later stories in which these groups fought among themselves, it is hard to imagine how we could cooperate with one heart when we were supposed to be receiving God's laws.

Thousands of years later, that trend has only become more pronounced. Not only do we have denominational wars between Reform, Conservative, and Orthodoxy, but also the older divisions of Hasidic vs. Mitnagdic, Talmudist vs. Kabbalist, Ashkenazic vs. Sephardic, etc. Writing just after WWII, Rabbi Shemtob Gaguine wryly predicted that even Elijah the Prophet would be unable to resolve these differences and restore the concept of a "single Torah" in the Messianic Age! (Keter Shem Tob, vol. III, pp. xxxi-xxxii)

Perhaps he is right, but I suggest that the basic antidote to our tendency to estrangement is *kabod*, the value of treating one another with respect. If we meet a different kind of Jew, we should be able greet them with *kabod* even if we might never observe the Torah like them. If we hear another point of view than ours, we should be able have a conversation about it in mutual respect. If we can be exposed to differences without feeling threatened by the mere existence of another way, we will have gone a long way to restoring the oneness of God's message.

Parashat Mishpatim

Shabbat Shekalim / Erev Rosh Hodesh

Torah (§): Ex. 21:1–24:18; Ex. 30:11–16
Hertz 306, 352; Stone 416, 484
HT: II Kings 11:17–12:17; I Sam. 20:18, 42
Hertz 992, 948; Stone 1212, 1207
Shaharit: Mashiv Haruah, Hakhrazat Adar (Sun & Mon); no Tsidkatekha at Minha

KJ Schedule

Erev Shabbat

Friday, February 24th

Shaharit..... 6:25 am
Candle lighting 5:27 pm
Minha 5:15 pm
Kabbalat Shabbat / Arvit..... 5:45 pm

Yom Shabbat

Saturday, February 25th

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

Women's Tehillim..... 4:15 pm
Minha 4:45 pm
Se'uda Shelisheet 5:30 pm
Arvit 6:15 pm
Havdala 6:31 pm

(Continued on page 2)

Rabbi Hassan's Visit a Success!



Kahal Joseph thanks Rabbi Ben Hassan and his family for an enjoyable Scholar-in-Residence weekend last Shabbat!

On Friday night, he was the guest of honor at our first **young professionals Shabbat dinner** (more to come!). The upstairs social hall was the perfect atmosphere for singles and young couples to mingle over delicious Israeli food from Ta'eem Grill. Between dinner and dessert, everyone participated in a provocative conversation about the last

of the 10 Commandments. How can God command us not to feel something in our minds? What are the implications of coveting other people's things in our materialistic world?

On Shabbat morning, Rabbi Hassan put a fresh twist on this topic at kiddush for the benefit of those who could not attend the night before. Then, at a special se'uda shelisheet, he kicked off our Purim observances with a conversation about king Ahashverosh. What kind of character did he have, both as a person and as a ruler? What meanings might that carry into contemporary politics?

(Continued from page 1)

Rosh Hodesh Adar

Sunday, February 26th

Shaharit	7:30 am
Talmud Torah	9:45 am

Monday, February 27th

Shaharit	6:15 am
----------------	---------

Weekdays / Tues to Fri, Feb 28 to March 3

Shaharit	6:25 am
----------------	---------

Next Shabbat / Fri & Sat March 3 & 4

Shabbat Candle lighting	5:33 pm
Friday Minha	5:30 pm
Shaharit	8:30 am
Saturday Minha	5:00 pm
Havdala	6:37 pm

In Memoriam

We remember these yearzeit anniversaries from Feb. 25 to March 4, 2017. It is customary to light a memorial candle, donate tzedaka & attend Shabbat services.

29 Shevat / Shabbat, February 25th

Ramah Duke *Rahma bat Salha Khatoun*

Georgia Jiji

Mordechai Sassoon *Mordechai Hayim ben Moshe*

30 Shevat / Sunday, February 26th

Nagi Avraham *Nagi ben Murad*

Shaul Cohen *Shaul ben David*

Haim Elazar *Haim ben Yisrael*

Catherine Moses *Khatoun Matana bat Masouda*

1 Adar / Monday, February 27th

Yosef Soffer *Yosef ben Eliyahu*

2 Adar / Tuesday, February 28th

Abraham Aslan *Abraham ben Meneshe*

Aaron J. Moses *Aharon ben Yosef*

Joseph Faraj Moses *Yoseph Faraj ben Yoseph Haim*

3 Adar / Wednesday, March 1st

Yoseph Avrahamy *Yoseph ben Abraham*

Farang Jahanbani

Herschel Tzvi Sarne

Abraham Shalom *Abraham ben Shaul Sopher*

4 Adar / Thursday, March 2nd

Simy Bensabat *Simy ben Mesody*

Baacker Jalali *Baacker ben Avraham*

5 Adar / Friday, March 3rd

Leah bat Mozli

6 Adar / Shabbat, March 4th

Molly Jonah *Mazeltov bat Sara*

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
 Katie bat Farha • Miriam bat Yetta • Aliza bat Rahel
 Aliza bat Victoria • Yvonne Moalim
 Latifa bat Louisa • Bracha Simha bat Louisa

Kahal Joseph Congregation presents

Purim Carnival

Food! Games! Prizes!
Sunday, March 12
11AM - 3PM

UNLIMITED GAME WRISTBAND - \$20

PREORDER SPECIAL - 3 FOR \$40 BY MAR 3

CALL THE OFFICE AT 310.474.0559

FOOD AVAILABLE FOR PURCHASE * REMEMBER DAYLIGHT SAVINGS TIME!



Purim Baking!

Sunday, March 5

10:00 AM till the
dough is done!

Bake traditional Iraqi
treats with friends for
the KJ Purim baskets
distributed to members of
our congregation.

Can't make it?

Make a dough-nation instead.

Send checks to the
Kahal Joseph office,
call 310.474.0559 or online
www.kahaljoseph.org/donate

For more info, email yvettedabby@gmail.com



Purim is Coming!

Saturday,
March 11

7:30 PM Megilla reading
Raffle for great prizes!
Refreshments to follow

Sunday,
March 12

9:15 AM Shaharit
10:00 AM Megilla reading
11:00 AM Purim carnival!



BOARD OF DIRECTORS SHABBAT LUNCHEON SATURDAY, MARCH 25

Join us as we thank the
2014-2017 board, and welcome
the 2017-2020 board

For members only
RSVP to the office at 310.474.0559

Interested in becoming a member?
Talk to Rabbi Melhado or call the office



Purim Carnival

Food!

Games!

Prizes!

Sunday, March 12
11AM - 3PM

BOOTH SPONSORS

Contact Molly at
molly@emetek.com to
reserve your booth and
support Kahal!

VOLUNTEERS

Only YOU can make
the carnival fun!
Sign up online at
www.kahaljoseph.org/purim

Living Room Learning



Got a pressing Jewish question?
Something on your mind? A topic of interest?

Host Rabbi Melhado in your home for a class to explore a
topic of your choice, or work with the rabbi to find
something that interests you. Invite your friends, and learn
together with the rabbi in a relaxed environment.

Interested? Questions?
Email the rabbi at RabbiMelhado@kahaljoseph.org.