

KOL MEVASSER

Rabbi's Message

When is a story too good to be true? I enjoy a nice yarn as much as the next person, but studying history at an academic level has helped me develop a "Spidey sense" for the tales where all the pieces fit a little too well. It is skill that develops over time, and I am by no means perfect at it, but I managed to catch a likely fiction last November as it made the rounds on social media:



As the narrator would have it, two Polish women were waiting outside a Nazi death camp and had the opportunity to plunder a Jewish lady's coat. While raiding it, they were astonished to find a secret pocket with a newborn baby girl inside. One of them took pity on the infant and decided to raise her as her own. It was only after the adoptive mother's death that her co-conspirator came forward to reveal the daughter's identity. The proof lay in a little necklace with Hebrew lettering that the baby had been wearing, which they indeed found in the deceased mother's jewelry box when they looked for it.

By this point our heroine was a successful doctor. While on vacation she saw a pair of Chabad boys wrapping tefillin on passersby, and she showed them the necklace. They advised her to write the Rebbe, who responded that she was Jewish and advised her to work in Israel. She did, and obtained a letter there proving her halachic Jewish status. This move put her in Jerusalem during the 2001 Sbarro pizza bombing, and she had the opportunity to treat an elderly victim who had been separated from his granddaughter. He said she could be recognized by her necklace, and began to describe exactly the pendant

that our heroine had. He had been a goldsmith before the war, and had made two identical copies for his daughters in the 1930s. After six decades of separation, these same pendants engineered a daughter's tearful reunion with her dad.

For inspiration, this is a slam-dunk. How incredible it is that this woman could have even survived the Holocaust, let alone found her way back to her faith and family! Who wouldn't feel a thrill of triumph that Hitler couldn't stop this story from happening? Who could resist publishing it in a recent book of "tales of the Holocaust"?

Yet when it comes down to the burden of proof, there is actually very little to go on. The camp where it happened is not named, nor are the Polish women nor the baby. All documents from the Lubavitcher Rebbe are absent, as are the ones from the Israeli Bet Din. And by 2001, any story of this type would have been extensively covered in the media, yet the accounts of the Sbarro attack are all totally silent about it. It might be a nice bit of literature, but it doesn't hold up to historical scrutiny.

The story of the spies from Parashat Shelah is a great reminder of the dangers involved in presenting garbled facts as truth to a credulous audience. In that narrative, it is precisely the inner kernel of plausibility that sets the Israelites down the wrong path. The story they are hearing *sounds* like it could be real – we might even *want* it to be real – leaving our hearts open to being emotionally swayed. Far better to be honest and label the story as fiction, however disappointing it might be to not have it be accurate. When we know we aren't being tricked, we can make much better judgments, leading to a more collected, reasonable outcome.

Parashat Shelah

Torah: Num. 13:1–15:41, 119 Pesukim
Hertz 623–634; Stone 798–819
Haftara: Josh. 2:1–24
Hertz 635–637; Stone 1184–1185
Tefillot: Morid Hatal, Hakhrazat Tammuz
(Wed and Ths)

Reminder

Starting NEXT Shabbat, Minha on Saturday will stay fixed at 7:15 pm for five weeks.

KJ Schedule

Erev Shabbat

Friday, June 8th

Candle lighting	7:45 pm
Minha	6:30 pm
Kabbalat Shabbat	7:00 pm

Yom Shabbat

Saturday, June 9th

Shaharit	8:30 am
Keri'at HaTorah	10:00 am
Musaf	11:40 am
Women's Tehillim	6:00 pm
Minha	7:00 pm
Se'uda Shelisheet	7:45 pm
Arvit	8:30 pm
Havdala	8:48 pm

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Thank You KJ Volunteers

Kahal Joseph thanks volunteers
Ashkan Shadi, Baruch Isaac, and
Rabbi Melhado for organizing the
Shabbat and holiday prayer
books in the newly renovated

Maurice and Alice Zekaria Lobby

Shabbat Kiddush

is sponsored
in honor of the marriage of

Ingrid & Iman Amirianfar

by

Nancy & Henry Amirianfar

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Sunday, June 10th

Shaharit..... 7:30 am

Monday-Tuesday, June 11th & 12th

Shaharit..... 6:25 am

Rosh Hodesh Tammuz

Wednesday-Thursday, June 13th & 14th

Shaharit..... 6:05 am

Next Shabbat / Friday-Saturday, June 15-16

Shabbat Candle lighting..... 7:47 pm

Friday Minha 6:30 pm

Shaharit 8:30 am

Saturday Minha 7:15 pm

Havdala 8:51 pm

Refua Shelema

Sassoon Ezra • Moselle Amron • Sally Amron
Sylvia Cohen • Esther Duke • Mehry bat Miriam
Hakimpour • Tilda Levy • Yvonne Moalim • Florice
Newberry • Aliza bat Rahel • Aliza bat Victoria
Arlette bat Rashel • Chaya Chana bat Batya
Katie bat Farha • Malka bat Rahel • Miriam bat Yetta
Miryam bat Malka • Moshe Ezra ben MazalTov
Simcha bat Rooha • Moshe Hooman ben Sara
Habiba bat Farha • Moshe Haim ben Sara
Meir Ezra ben Rahel • Dina bat Rahel

In Memoriam

We remember these yahrzeits from June 9 to 16,
2018. It is customary to light memorial candles,
donate tzedaka and attend Shabbat services to
honor loved ones.

26 Sivan / Shabbat, June 9th

Daniel Rojhani

George Sassoon *Khadoory Hai ben Ezra*

Samha Zekha

27 Sivan / Sunday, June 10th

Abdallah Joseph *Abdallah Faraj Yoseph ben Isaac*

Maurice Mathalon *Maurice Moshe ben Avraham*

28 Sivan / Monday, June 11th

Rostame Eliassi *Mordecai ben Habib*

Aziz Daniel Pourati *Aziz ben Daniel*

29 Sivan / Tuesday, June 12th

Eric Jacob Jonah *Ezra ben Yaacov*

Abraham Mashaal *Avraham ben Yehezkel*

30 Sivan / Wednesday, June 13th

Ester Meyer *Ester bat Sofi*

1 Tammuz / Thursday, June 14th

Selina Jacobs

Ezra Kemareh *Ezra Yaacov*

Maurice Morris *Moshe ben Abdullah*

Lulu Moshi *Lulu bat Simha*

Abraham Posmentier *Avraham ben Isser*

Nadhim Sarraf *Yitzhak ben Haim*

2 Tammuz / Friday, June 15th

Isaac Amron

Eugene Cornateanu

Simha Goury *Simha bat Lulu*

Meyer Edward Nathan *Meir ben Ezra*

3 Tammuz / Shabbat, June 16th

Joseph Moses *Yosef ben Aharon Moshe*

Habibollah Rokhsar *Habib ben Mordecai*



Prints of Babylon

Recommended Reading on the Iraqi Jewish Diaspora

**“Jews of Arab and Islamic Countries :
History, Problems, Solutions”
by Heskell M. Haddad**

Dr. Haddad is an Iraqi-born ophthalmologist who has lobbied for Mizrahi causes his whole professional life. In the mid-80s, he was troubled by the gap of wealth and power between Sephardim and Ashkenazim in the Jewish state. Feeling that mutual understanding would help address the problem, he penned an accessible handbook to Sephardi experiences both abroad and in Israel.

Part I paints a picture of the global Sephardi diaspora in past and present. The totality of this section, the largest in the book, gives a great sense of where Iraqi Jews fit into the larger Sephardic story. **Part II** explores the realities and myths of Sephardi-Ashkenazi relations in Israeli society. **Part III** presents a set of reasoned solutions to bridge the social gap in Israel for everyone's collective benefit. Reading it 34 years later gives us the opportunity to gauge how his plan was received, and whether it could be called a success.

Citation: Haddad, Haskel M. *Jews of Arab and Islamic Countries: History, Problems, Solutions*. New York, Shengold Publishers, 1984.

CONGRATULATE Your Graduate!

Don't let your graduate go unnoticed!

Let's celebrate the success and accomplishments of all our graduates from preschool to PhD.

Email the name, school and field of study of your graduate to jessica@kahaljoseph.org and they will be mentioned in the June 16 Kol Mevasser!

Membership Benefits Everyone!

You get...

- *To be a part of the Kahal family
- *High Holy Days tickets
- *Rabbi for lifecycle events
- *Pastoral counseling
- *Preferential rates for space rentals, Talmud Torah tuition and children's programs

You support...

- *Adult Education programs
- *Social events
- *Children's education & programs
- *Prayer minyanim
- *Keeping Kahal here for you when you need it!

Contact the office at 310-474-0559 or speak to Rabbi Melhado to join!



Join Kahal Joseph at the Ball Park!



Jewish Community Day at Dodgers Stadium!
Sun., Aug. 5 at 1:10 PM - Dodgers v. Houston Astros

← Group tickets \$36 including a
Dodgers in Hebrew baseball tee

RSVP by July 5 - call the office at 310-474-0559
If we get 20 tickets, Kahal's name will be on the Jumbotron!



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Contact Molly Jalali at molly@emetek.com or Rabbi Melhado at
rabbimelhado@kahaljoseph.org for more information!

Registration forms at www.kahaljoseph.org/talmudtorah.html



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& YOUNG AT HEART

Wines of Israel Social

Wine tastings from vineyards all around Israel
Come join us for a lechaim & some ya'yin!

July 12, 2018
7:30 PM

Advanced Reservation \$26.00
At the Door \$30.00
Per Person

RSVP
Call 310.474.0559



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