

Rabbi's Message



Jewish motivational literature preserves a powerful morality tale about the bread sacrifices of the Tabernacle (Lev. 23:15-17 and 24:5-9). There are several variants, but the core goes something like this:

Back in the days of yore, a simple Jew heard a rabbi speak about the bread sacrifices in Parashat Emor. He expounded on how special they were, but also lamented that we can no longer offer them. Our hero innocently thought that we just needed a donor, so he told his wife to bake twelve beautiful challot for him to leave in the Ekhal that Friday.

After he departed, another man came to pray for parnassa, and found the bounty of challot seemingly in answer to his prayers. Later, our hero inferred that God had eaten the missing bread, so he told his wife to bake it every week. Each time they were taken by the other man, with each thinking that God was behind it.

This went on until the rabbi finally saw the man placing the challot and chastised him. He explained that the bread can only be offered in the Temple, and that God doesn't eat food. He forced him to hide and see who was taking them, and then humiliated the other man too. The rabbi spoke harshly, fracturing the simple faith of both men. In many versions, the rabbi is punished for this sin with an untimely death that is predicted in a dream.

Although the ending is morbid, we can connect to the goal of the tale, which emphasizes the merit of sincere belief. Yet what fascinates me most

about it is that few people tell it accurately to the original source, which can easily be found in the writings of Rabbi Moshe Hagiz (1672-1750). A comparison of the above with the original version of the story reveals that many of the details have been omitted or reimagined:

In the original text, the time, place and characters are all identified. It is set in Safed in the mid-16th century; the man offering the bread is a Portuguese ex-Convert, and the man taking it is the Shamash of the synagogue. The Shamash offers no prayer for parnassa, since he is supported by such offerings and feels entitled to take them. The bread offered is not Ashkenazi "challah" but Sephardi "loaves," and it's only two loaves for the Shte Halehem, instead of twelve for the Lehem Hapanim. The rabbi does not lie in wait for the Shamash, who simply thanks the ex-Convert for the bread when he walks into their conversation. The rabbi's untimely death is foretold not in a dream, but in person by a disciple of Rabbi Isaac Luria.

It is tempting to paint this as an example of uncritical thinking by the authors of motivational literature. I have written before about the risks of prizing a *good* story over a *true* one, as well as the value of separating fact from fiction (KM 06-09-18). However, it is possible that these details have changed only because people want to access the story in terms that match their own experience – to make it easier to imagine themselves inside it. If their intention is thus pure, I will refrain from the role of the rabbi who makes them feel ashamed of it. Instead I will simply suggest a footnote for the original source so that we can all have the chance to judge it for ourselves. (1)

1. *Mishnat Hahamim* 5:220, Wandsbek: 1733.

Parashat Emor

28th Day since the Omer

Torah: Lev. 21:1–24:23, 124 Pesukim
Hertz 513–528; Stone 672–695
Haftara: Ezek. 44:15–31
Hertz 528–530; Stone 1176–1177
Tefillot: Morid Hatal

KJ Schedule

Erev Shabbat

Friday, May 17th

Candle lighting	7:30 pm
Happy Minyan	5:30 pm
Minha	6:00 pm
Kabbalat Shabbat & Arvit	6:30 pm

Yom Shabbat

Saturday, May 18th

Shaharit.....	8:30 am
Keriat HaTorah.....	10:15 am
Sermon	11:20 am
Musaf	11:30 am
Women's Tehillim	5:45 pm
Minha	6:45 pm
Se'uda Shelisheet	7:30 pm
Arvit.....	8:20 pm
Havdala	8:35 pm

Pesah Sheni

Sunday, May 19th

Shaharit.....	7:30 am
Talmud Torah.....	9:45 am
Israel Festival@Rancho Park,	noon to 7 pm

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Treasures of Kahal Rosewater Dispensers

This matched set of silver "kimkim," inscribed to Kahal Joseph from Benjamin H. Elias, was found by Rabbi Melhado in one of the cabinets of the Teba.

According to Iraqi Jewish historian Avraham ben Yaakov, Iraqi Jews sprinkle rosewater from the kimkim to bless *atse besamim* (or smell myrtle branches), and prefer to do this alongside fragrant grasses for *isbe besamim*.

The kimkim can be used for festive occasions such as wedding celebrations, or to honor those who have passed on by making the blessings in their memories.

– *Minhage Yahadut Bavel Bedorot Ha'aharonim*, vol. 2, pp. 106, 149, and 316.

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...

- *Educational programs
- *Social events
- *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!

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Monday-Friday, May 20th to 24th
Shaharit 6:25 am

Lag La'omer / Thursday, May 23rd

Next Shabbat / Fri-Sat, May 24-25
Shabbat Candle lighting 7:35 pm
Happy Minyan / Minha .. 5:30 pm / 6:00 pm
Shaharit 8:30 am
Saturday Minha 7:00 pm
Havdala 8:40 pm

Refua Shelema

Sassoon Ezra • Moselle Amron
Sally Amron • Sylvia Cohen • Esther Duke
Mehry bat Miriam Hakimipour • Tilda Levy
Yvonne Moalim • Florice Newberry
Aliza bat Rahel • Aliza bat Victoria • Chaya
Chana bat Batya • Katie bat Farha • Miriam bat
Yetta • Miryam bat Malka • Moshe Ezra ben
MazalTov • Simcha bat Rooha • Habiba bat Farha
Chaya Rachel bat Simcha • Dina bat Rahel
Rahel bat Ramah Regina • Karen bat Chana
Meir Ezra ben Rahel • Eti Esther bat Fortuna
Eliahu Shalom ben Avigayil

In Memoriam

We remember these yahrzeit anniversaries from May 18 to 25, 2019. We light memorial candles, donate tzedaka, and attend Shabbat services to honor the memory of our loved ones.

13 Iyar / Shabbat, May 18th

Devorah Lubovsky *Devorah bat Aharon*
Joseph Robert Saul *Yosef Rahamim ben Shaul*
Violet Aziza Sheeri

14 Iyar / Sunday, May 19th

Sally Ekaireb *Salha Matana bat Matooka*
Tala Eradat *Tala bat Javaher*
Amir Ghouljian
Salman Khadoori Shaby *Salman ben Kadoori*
Eliyahu Hai Abraham Shamash *Eliyahu ben Avraham*

15 Iyar / Monday, May 20th

Daniel Hakimipour *Daniel ben Meir*
Rivka Matana bat Miriam
Rachel Yitzhaki *Rahel bat Chana*

16 Iyar / Tuesday, May 21st

Eliza Moses Aziza *bat Chana*
Albert Abraham Gamal Sassoon
Joseph Yehudah *Yoseph ben Yehudah*
Seemah Sofaer Shemash *Seemah Sofaer bat Hanna*

17 Iyar / Wednesday, May 22nd

Munir Meyer Kalili *Munir Meyer ben Abraham Eliyahu*

18 Iyar / Thursday, May 23rd

Rachel Judah *Rachel bat Tifacha*

19 Iyar / Friday, May 24th

Helen Ezra Shemtob *Habiba bat Lulu*

Morning Minyan is Where It's At!

There is a warm place for you in the happy camaraderie of morning minyan. Any day is off to a great start when it begins with prayer and friendship. The best part? It doesn't just feel good, it's a mitsva too!



Join Kahal Joseph at the Celebrate Israel Festival on May 19, 2019!
Cheviot Hills Recreation Center,
Rancho Park

Vendors! Kosher Food!
Lots of great entertainers!

Buy tickets through this link to benefit
Kahal Joseph:

<https://www.Purplepass.com/celebrateisrael?SID=KehillatJoseph>

An event not to be missed!

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 15 Kol Mevasser!

Blessings for Counting the Omer

Counted each evening after dark between the second night of Passover and Shavuot

בָּרוּךְ אַתָּה יי. אֱלֹהֵינוּ מֶלֶךְ הָעוֹלָם. אֲשֶׁר קִדְּשָׁנוּ בְּמִצְוֹתָיו וְצִוָּנוּ עַל

סְפִירַת הָעֹמֶר: הַיּוֹם _____ לְעֹמֶר שָׁהֵם _____:

הַרְחֵמֵנוּ הוּא יַחֲזִיר עֲבוֹדַת בֵּית הַמִּקְדָּשׁ לְמִקְוָה בְּמַהֲרָה בְּיָמֵינוּ. אָמֵן:

Ba-rukh a-ta a-do-nai, e-lo-he-nu me-lekh ha-o-lam, a-sher kee-de-sha-nu
be-meets-vo-tav, ve-tsee-va-nu al se-fi-rat ha-o-mer.

Ha-yom _____ la-o-mer, she-hem _____.

Ha-ra-ha-man hu ya-ha-zeer a-vo-dat bet ha-meeek-dash
leem-ko-ma beem-he-ra ve-ya-me-nu a-men.

You are blessed, O Lord, our God and King of the Universe, Who made us holy with Your commandments and required us to count the Omer.

Today is the _____ day since the Omer, which is [insert weeks and days].

May the Merciful One restore the Temple service, promptly and in our lifetimes, Amen!

Birkat Ha'ilanot with KJ



Shavuot

June 8, 9 & 10

Tikkun Leil Shavuot - June 8

1:00 PM Minha after Kiddush, no Seuda Shellsheet

8:45 PM - Arvit

9:00 PM - Dinner

RSVP at www.kahaljoseph.org/shavuot.html

9:45 PM - Midrash Mania

10:45 PM - Five Centuries of the Printed Talmud

Shavuot I - Sunday, June 9

8:15 AM - Shaharit

6:00 PM - Azharot

10 - 12 - Kids Room

6:20 PM - Minha

11:20 - Book of Ruth

6:50 PM - Arvit

Shavuot II - Monday, June 10

8:30 AM - Shaharit

7:15 PM - Minha

10 - 12 - Kids Room

7:45 PM - Seuda

6:50 PM - Azharot

8:35 PM - Arvit

8:49 PM - Havdala

