



The Challenge of Theodicy

This week's portion begins, sadly with the death of Sarah. The Torah does not give us much detail as to the reasons for Sarah's death but we know that her death occurs a chapter or so after the *akedah*, the near sacrifice of Isaac. The Midrash [Rabbinic interpretations of the Torah narrative] makes a connection between these two events. It interprets Sarah's death to have been the result of the trauma and pain she felt upon the news of the *akedah*. Sarah, according to the midrash, thinking her son had actually been sacrificed, died of a broken heart.

How can this be? Sarah, the mother of the Jewish people who together with Abraham were the first to believe in God. Sarah, who miraculously gave birth to Isaac died of a broken heart as a result of a trick that God played on them both to test their loyalty. Is this her reward for a lifetime of fidelity to God?

Ethical Monotheism, a core principle of our tradition is grounded in the belief that God is one and that God is good. We serve God by observing the mitzvot [commandments] and are rewarded for our service, but is that how the world really works?

Last week's egregious act of antisemitic hatred and murder in Pittsburgh powerfully highlights the problem of theodicy in our world. If God is good and just, how is it that innocent people suffer? Many Rabbis throughout history have attempted to deal with this. Perhaps all attempts are doomed to failure but Rabbi Nachman of Bratslav in a powerful teaching from his *Liqutei Moharan*, invokes Lurianic Kabbalistic teaching to try and grapple with the problem of evil in a world where God is good.

According to this teaching the *Ein Sof* [the aspect of God in Kabbalah that is totally unknowable and beyond human comprehension] wished to be known as *Rahum ve Chanun*, graceful and merciful. It was not sufficient for the *Ein Sof* to remain in a state of primordial oneness and perfection, the *Ein Sof* needed to be in relationship with conscious beings who would be able to embody and project its divine light. In order to allow for this possibility, it was necessary for the *Ein Sof* to withdraw from a certain space to allow creation to emerge, but in so doing a vacant space, (*hallal panuee*) emerged where the illuminating light of the *Ein Sof* was diminished.

Since all life unfolded from this vacant space where the divine light does not shine in all its splendour, we experience existence in binaries - good-evil, light-dark, body-mind. While not an illusion, this is but a fragment of reality. That is why all that exists within the vacant space (*hallal panuee*) is seemingly subject to the laws of duality. Rabbi Nachman warns us not to lose ourselves in this partial reality. Additionally, he does not want us to dwell on the question of why evil exists in a world where God is good or why bad things happen to good people. That suffering exists in the world is inevitable, it is a condition of life in the *hallal panuee* where God's radiance is necessarily diminished to allow for creation.

No attempt to understand the "mind of God" will ever be sufficient to address the terror of suffering or the random murder of innocents like those who sadly perished last week in Pittsburgh.

Rabbi Nachman advises us to be true *ivri'm* [Hebrews] and 'pass over,' transcend the brokenness of our world with acts of lovingkindness and

continued over...

MAZAL TOV

Marley Whitcombe on his **Bar Mitzvah**
(*New Sanctuary - mincha*)

Edward and Jessica Brenac on the naming of their son, **Oliver**

Patrick Perriam Frisch & Danielle Perriam Frisch on the naming of their daughter, **Frankie Debra**
(*New Sanctuary*)

CANDLE LIGHTING

Friday 7:06pm

Saturday 8:04pm

TORAH (*page 127*)

Genesis 23:1 - 25:18

HAFTARAH (*page 142*)

I Kings 1:1 - 1:31

SHABBAT SERVICES

Erev Shabbat

- 6:15pm - Masorti Service (*Neuweg*)
- 6:15pm - *Shabbat Live* (*New Sanctuary*)

Shabbat Morning

- 9:00am - Masorti service (*New Sanctuary*)
- 10:00am - Healing Progressive service (*Neuweg*)

Morning Minyan

Mon at 6:45am and
Thurs 6:30am

Many thanks to the Danon and Levy families for sponsoring the kiddush

ma'asim tovim [good deeds]. This is the true answer. By increasing the good in the world we bring the good God into our world and allow that God to dwell here amongst us.

A powerful response to evil, like the Pittsburgh shooting, lies with the work of organizations like WIZO. WIZO [Women's International Zionist Organization] is one of the largest welfare organizations in Israel. Its volunteers work towards providing for the welfare of infants, women, men and the elderly who are in need of assistance both financial and emotional. As we recall last week's horrific tragedy we must continue to work towards establishing a world where justice and compassion triumph over hatred, intolerance and racism.

Shabbat Shalom

Cantor George Mordecai

80 SHABBAT DINNERS

When: Friday November 9th Where: your place

To celebrate our synagogue's 80th birthday we want to have 80 Shabbat dinners on one Shabbat! All you need to do is invite some friends and family to your place for Shabbat dinner on the 9th November and register your dinner with us and receive your host's gift.

Make a date with your mates to celebrate! Register now to be part: tinyurl.com/80-shabbats

November 18 is Mitzvah Day

Mitzvah Day is a day set aside across the world where communities gather together to perform mitzvot and make positive change in the world

This year we will be focusing our efforts on indigenous children. We will be working with Gunawirra to create care packs for **4 year old children** as part of their "Big Ideas" Programme. Before the day we ask that you bring in **new items** for the packs: items required are underwear, socks, singlets, washers, soap, antiseptic cream, band aids, pocket tissues, toothpaste & toothbrushes.

Please see: tinyurl.com/emanuelmitzvah for information on Gunnawirra and the day.



*Rabbi Jeffrey B. Kamins OAM
Arno & Hella Seefeldt Rabbinic Chair*



Rabbi Jacqueline Ninio

WIZO SHABBAT

This week is WIZO Shabbat, the culmination of WIZO Awareness Week. WIZO inspires over 250,000 women in 50 countries around the world to raise money helping families: men, women, boys and girls in 800 projects all over Israel.

For more, see: wizonsw.org.au



Rabbi Rafi Kaiserblueth



*Rev. Sam Zwarenstein
Director of Communal Engagement*



Cantor George Mordecai



Rabbi Dr Orna Triguboff

WHAT'S ON

Kef Kids - Fridays from 4:00pm-5:30pm

Kef Kids is an educational program for children in years K-5 - an exciting, fun way for kids to connect with Judaism and their community.

Shabbat Tot - Friday November 2nd from 4:30pm-5:30pm

A lovely way to introduce your children to Shabbat and an opportunity to meet other families in the community. For 2 to 5 year olds. Parents and grandparents welcome!

Family Friday - Friday November 2nd from 5:30pm-6:15pm

Come along for a light, child-friendly dinner and then stay for services. A great opportunity to meet families in the congregation and to celebrate Shabbat together.

Lunch 'n' Learn - Saturday November 10th after Shabbat services

Special guest Yossi Abramowitz will talk about Israel-Diaspora Relations. Winner of the Covenant Award for Excellence in Jewish Education and Israel's Green Globe Award in the Knesset, Yossi serves as CEO of Energiya Global Capital, a Jerusalem-based impact platform for green energy.

Conversations about Israel - every Monday from 10:00am-11:30am

Every Monday, join Rabbi Jeffrey Kamins or guest speakers to examine the complex issues facing contemporary Israel. This Monday, guest speaker is Caryn Farber, Australian Director of the Joint, the world's largest Jewish humanitarian organisation caring for vulnerable and impoverished Jews in more than 70 countries.

Renewal Shabbat Service - Friday November 30

at Nielsen Park, on the sand followed by a vegetarian pot luck dinner featuring Rabbi Dr Orna Triguboff, Emanuel Lieberfreund and Nadav Kahn

Remembrance Day Service - Friday November 9 from 6:15pm

Join us for a special service to commemorate the centenary of the end of WWI, honouring all those who have served and are serving, and those who gave the ultimate sacrifice so that we can live our lives free from tyranny and persecution.

Plus61J presents Nicholas Wolpe -

South Africa's Victory over Apartheid and Mandela's Legacy

Sunday November 4th from 2:30pm to 5:00pm

Nicholas Wolpe is the son of one of those arrested with Nelson Mandela at Rivonia in 1963. This saw Mandela and seven others convicted and sentenced to prison. Nicholas is now head of the Lilliesleaf Foundation, which includes a museum and education centre honouring their struggle and achievements.

Book now: tinyurl.com/wolpe-talk

The ACO Returns to Emanuel! November 26 from 6:30pm

The Australian Chamber Orchestra is returning to Emanuel Synagogue for an inspiring, intimate performance in the elegant surrounds of the synagogue's New Sanctuary.

Don't miss this extraordinary evening with Richard Tognetti and the ACO. The concert will also include a short performance by talented local musicians.

Bookings are now open: tinyurl.com/acoconcert18

IN MEMORY

There are mourners in our community to whom we extend our sincerest sympathies on the death of their loved ones.

Shiva: Victor Fridman, Greta Silvers, David Rosenthal, Cecil Rosenthal, Richard Gottfried, Jerry Rabinowitz, Irving Younger, Daniel Stein, Joyce Fienberg, Melvin Wax, Bernice Simon, Sylvan Simon, Rose Mallinger

Shloshim: Susan Szabo, Rose Zwi, Susan King, Carole Solomon, Else Weiss, Giorgio Mario Ventura, Mirja Perheentupa, Isaac Abramowitz, Ronald Coppel, Joe Barrington

This week we observe the Yahrzeits of (observed by):

* Memorial Light

Lionel Arthur Abrahams

(Nikki Abrahams)

Sydney Arthur Alman (Leonie Lilienfeld)

Morris Antflick (Sidney Antflick)

Joseph Apterman (Leo Apterman)

Solomon Bard (Paul Bard)

* **Otto Burchard**

Sadie Campan (Denise Mallach)

Margo David (Marla Bozic)

Judith Fischer (Vivienne Mohay)

Ingeborg Elizabeth Freeman

(David Freeman)

Charles Gacs (Peter Gacs)

* **Leonard Greenberg**

* **Evelyn Beatrice Hambridge**

* **Israel Horwitz**

John (Johno) Johnson (John Johnson,
Stephen Camden-Smith)

* **Ernst Kaufmann**

* **Rose Kisselhoff**

Alfred Kohane (Betty Kohane)

Lonek Lusthaus (Margaret Roden)

Ernest Marx (Michael Leslie Marx)

Maureen Mendelsohn

(Graeme Mendelsohn)

Norman Morris (Sandie Morris-Mikardo)

Henry Morris (Rae Morris)

Mark Motniak (Bertha Power)

Hans Mueller (Linda Penn)

Joseph Newhouse (Daniel Newhouse)

Leah Onikul (Ella Lindeman)

Elizabeth Parker (Leisha Parker)

Marta Pikler (George Klein)

Raja Ramler (Dean Ramler)

Morritz Rispler (Alfredo Rispler)

Elwira Rosenstraus (Susanne Martin)

Philip Rubner (Steve Rubner)

Tanya Sackville (Pamela Sackville,
Ronald Sackville)

Rose Sandy (Robert Sandy)

Dorothy Sawyer (Jocelyn Robuck)

Shiphrah Silver (Judith Silver)

Henry Silver (Judith Silver)

Peter Singer (Jeff Singer)

* **Frances Smith**

Arthur Spindler (Deborah Saunders,
Lesley Spindler)

Millie Stern (Roger Davis)

Mila Szapiro (Julie Brandon)

Miriam Tannenbaum (Gene Sherman)

Jack Taylor (Alan Taylor)

* **Lisa Toren** (Iris Toren, Tom Toren)

Rudolph Urwand (Marcelle Urwand,
Michael Urwand)

Dr Vaegan (Beth Levy)

Tamara Vologdin (Irene Steele)

Piroska Weinberger (Anthony Boskovitz)

* **Ada Westbrook**

Hedwig Witton (Barbara Simon)

Geoffrey Hilton Zamel (Maurice Zamel,
Betty Zamel)

Shoah remembrance: Berta Zerkowitz was born in Banja Luka, Bosnia Herzegovina in 1892 and lived in Vienna, Austria until when she was murdered during the Holocaust.