



# Congregation Spanish & Portuguese

שארית ישראל

דברים

## Parashat Shoftim

## פרשת שופטים

Shoftim 5780



The month of Elul, celebrated this Thursday and Friday, is marked in the Jewish Calendar, as an auspicious time for *teshuvah* - repentance. But what is repentance? Does Gd expect me

to be perfect? Sure seems like it! Throughout our lives, 24/7, we are meant to do good and not evil, to be righteous and not bad. No excuses!

What if we make a mistake? What if we become lazy or stray for a moment, a minute or a month?

Well then, you have to "become perfect" to correct yourself.

Our great sages explain that the very word *teshuvah*, which is written תשובה - commonly translated as "repentance", but which literally means "return" - evokes a sequence of steps that results in an effective return and repairs damaged relationships. Each of the five letters of the Hebrew word refers to one of the stages in this *teshuvah* process. The first letter, the tav (ת), evokes a verse which begins with a tav: "*Tamim tihyeh im Hachem Eloke'ha*" ("Be *tamim* with the Lord your Gd").

*Tamim* is usually translated as "perfect" or "whole". We have already encountered the word *tamim*: Noah is described as *tamim*, Abraham is enjoined to be *tamim*, and all the sacrifices made in the Temple are to be *tamim*.

To put it simply: do you want to fix what you've damaged? The first thing to do is to become a *tamim*. It makes sense to me. If a student wants to be forgiven for being late, the teacher will demand that they be punctual: "Don't just tell me how sorry you are and what you are determined to do. Be-

have without fail, always be there before the bell rings, and I will forget your mistakes."

Here, however, is another approach given by Rashi, the leading biblical commentator. He explains that the *tamim* in this verse has a different meaning than when *tamim* appears in other parts of the Torah. Replace "whole" with "dedicated", "confident" or "accepting". The context of this verse is the prohibition against using witchcraft or necromancy to try to know the future, in the hope of overcoming the fear of the unknown. While the effectiveness of these practices is subject to debate, the compulsion to resort to such channels is driven by the very real desire to be in control, to know tomorrow's information today in order to feel safe.

And Gd asks us to just trust Him. Be *tamim*. Do not look elsewhere for security and peace of mind. Rather, calmly accept whatever He puts in your path, confident that it is for your own good. Show your love for Gd by accepting Him with all your heart. When I withhold my love, trust and commitment "just in case", I decrease the possibility of forging a "perfect" relationship with Gd, with my spouse, with my brother or with my friend. When I say that I accept the other unconditionally, I am there for good, committed without any reservation, *tamim*, despite my propensity to sabotage everything, then this is the foundation - the first letter - of return / repentance / reparation. I am there and I accept whatever the other brings without looking to see if the grass is greener elsewhere.

Once this is clear, even before our behavior has improved, we are already back. We have started *teshuvah*.

*Shabbat Shalom*

## Shabbat Shalom

Start/Début 7:32 pm.

End/Fin 8:37 pm.

Havdalah

Services Schedule

Horaires des Offices

**DURING THE COVID19 PERIOD, SERVICES SCHEDULE IS AS FOLLOWS:**

**SHAHARIT: 7:30 a.m.**

**Everyday Monday through Friday**

**Sunday: 8:30 a.m.**

**Afternoon/Evening Services:**

**Minha/Arvit 6:45**

**Our Week Day Services**

**Zoom meeting ID: 9146509809**

**SHABBAT SERVICES (RSVP)**  
**MASHAAL SANCTUARY - 9:00a.m. (Hodu)**

**SERVICES IN THE SUKKAH**

**Sunday at 8:30 a.m.**

Following Sunday services, Rabbi & Cantor visit MOUNT-ROYAL CEMETERY to recite weekly hashcobot. Send names of loved ones to: [rabbi@thespanish.org](mailto:rabbi@thespanish.org)

**Mercredi, 26 août - 19h00**

**Vivre avec la Paracha avec Rav. M. Pinto**

**Thursday, August 27 at 7 p.m.**

**Jewish Ethics & Morality**

**WITH RABBI PINTO (watch emails for details)**

**Zoom Meeting ID 914-650-9809**

**EVERY! FRIDAY NIGHT-6:30**

Join us for a *Kabalat Shabbat* under the stars in the **SUKKAH**

**SELIHOT will commence**  
**Sunday, August 23, 2020**  
through Yom Kippur

**Sunday 8:00 A.M**

**Monday - Friday 7:00 A.M**



**OUR SHABBAT KIDDUSH**  
**IS SPONSORED BY/EST OFFERT PAR:**

*Sandra & Ron Mashaal,*

*in honour of Congregation Maghen Abraham*

and will be held in **McKenzie Park.**

## Quote of the Week

Thinking is hard, that is why most people judge.

- - Carl Jung

- Aish HaTorah

# Beit Hamidrash Helwani

פרנס הכבוד - Parnass Hakavod: Mayer & Muriel Sasson

PROGRAMME DU BEIT HAMIDRASH

שיעור יומי

PROGRAMME QUOTIDIEN - HOK LEISRAËL - DIM.-VEN. APRÈS SHAHRIT RABBI M. PINTO - ZOOM ID: 5264381158

## PARNASS HAYOM

## פרנס היום

**Shabbat 2 Elul - August 22 août**

Congregation Maghen Abraham, en l'honneur du Beit Hamidrash Helwani.

Perla Bitton & Famille, à la mémoire de son mari, Jacob Bitton ז"ל.

**Sunday/Dimanche 3 Elul - August 23 août**

Shahrabani Family, in memory of Rosa Shahrabani ז"ל.

**Monday/Lundi 4 Elul - August 24 août**

Jamie & Marc Hadid, à la mémoire de Shaoul Hadid ben Gilson ז"ל.

Amy & Elie Hadid, à la mémoire de Shaoul Hadid ז"ל.

Ruth Nader, in memory of her brother, Allan Frederick Soffer ז"ל.

**Tuesday/Mardi 5 Elul - August 25 août**

Sidney Elhadad, à la mémoire de son père, Meir ben Freha ז"ל.

Ronald & Sandra Mashaal & Family, in memory of his mother, Doris Mashaal ז"ל.

**Thursday/Jendredi 7 Elul - August 27 août**

Rachel & Jim Archibald, in honour of their grandchildren,

Jacob, Chloé, Zachary, Noah, Joshua, Micah & Isaac.



## CONGREGATION MAGHEN ABRAHAM

THOUGHTS FROM MAYER SASSON

### THE MITZVAH OF CHARITY

"If amongst you there be a necessitous man...open wide פתה תפתה your hand unto him..." (15, 7-8)

On this verse Rabbi Yakov ben Asher, the Baal Haturim notes: In this parsha we find a repetition concerning the mitzvah of charity: — "העניק תעניק לו" (ג) — "נתן תתן לו" (ב) — "פתה תפתה את ידך לו" (א) on opening one's hand, giving and granting charity. The Torah thereby comes to emphasize that there is no limit of going charity and one should certainly not suffice by giving charity once; rather, any time a needy poor man comes to him he must support him generously.

In this matter the Jewish Sages ask: Why don't we make a blessing on the mitzvah of charity just as we do on other mitzvahs in the Torah? The RASHBA explains thusly: For any mitzvah that a person cannot fulfill alone but is dependent on others — he is not to make a blessing on that mitzvah. In the mitzvah of charity the giver is also dependent on the wishes of the poor recipient. If he refuses to take the charity money and the giver has already made a blessing, his blessing will have, G-d forbid, been in vain.

The Grand Rabbi Rabbi Menachem Mendel of Rimanov brings down a nice Chasidic explanation: A Jew must make a blessing on a mitzvah with a full heart and inner happiness, however sometimes when giving charity to the poor it is done with "half a heart" and without true total happiness (because the person feels as if he is losing money) and therefore our Sages ob'm did not set a blessing for this important mitzvah.

The righteous Rabbi Simcha Bunim of Pshischa noted on this: It is good that our Rabbis did not set a blessing on the fulfillment of the mitzvah of charity. Imagine how many preparations righteous Chassidim would do before saying a blessing — they would wash their hands and say a prayer of "Lishem Yichud" — and in the meantime, G-d forbid, the poor man could die from hunger.

We learn from here that one should give charity very promptly without any unnecessary delays because sometimes a person's life can depend on it.

*Shabbat Shalom*

REFUAH SHELEMAH TO:

Jim Abdoo



CHEVRA SHAAS  
ADATH JESHURUN  
HADRATH KODESH  
SHEVET ACHIM  
CHAVERIM KOL YISRAEL  
D'BET ABRAHAM  
CONGREGATION

**SHABBOS, AUGUST 22<sup>ND</sup>**

**FOR TIMES OF SERVICES, PLEASE  
FOLLOW WITH SPANISH & PORTUGUESE**

WORDS FROM RABBI WHITE  
SHOFETIM 5780

Two relevant observations, one from this past week, *parashat re'eh*, one from this week, *parashat shofetim*.

1) In last week's *haftarah*, the 3<sup>rd</sup> *haftarah* of consolation following the 9<sup>th</sup> of Av, from Isaiah, we read "no weapon used against you will succeed, and if anyone stands up against you in judgement, you will show that he is the wicked one." There are 2 ways to attack your enemy: with weapons, and in a court of law and public opinion.

A major item in the news the past several days has been the peace treaty between Israel and UAE. We pray that this will be the foreshadowing of a recognition of the righteousness of the cause of the Jewish people in the land of Israel; and that our enemies will begin thinking of "turning swords into plowshares" (and maybe *shares* in Israeli companies!) and stop castigating Israel at every opportunity in the UN.

2) This week's *parasha* begins with the obligation of the appointment of *shofetim*, judges; and *shotrim*. In modern Hebrew, *shotrim* are police.

I heard on the news the other day how in the city of Portland, police were so busy quelling a riot, they did not have time to answer over sixty 911 calls!

Certainly, we agree that there are some policemen who have to learn restraint, and the acts of some (I am sure a minority) are reprehensible. But the calls for defunding and attacking police have no place in a society of law. As the Torah states, we must have judges to adjudicate the laws, and *shotrim* to enforce them.

**Shabbat shalom**



**שבת שלום**



*The Spanish & Portuguese has recently begun a fundraising program whereby our goal is to raise \$1.5 Million over 3 years to help fund our activities, programs, and events.*

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*Philip Khazzam*  
*Morris & Evette Mashaal & Family*  
*Mike & Monika Yuval & Family*  
*Jacob & Iris Haimovici & Family*  
*Joshua & Anne Haimovici & Family*  
*F.G. Shahrabani Family*  
*Salim Mashaal & Family*  
*Charles & Lucie Shemie & Family*  
*David & Carole Nathaniel & Family*  
*Ronald & Myriam Reuben & Family*  
*Victor & Edna Mashaal & Family*  
*Henri & Arlene Abitan & Family*  
*David & Vivian Gabbay & Family*  
*Manny & Denise Touaty & Family*

*With deep gratitude, we acknowledge the following generous donors who are supporting the operations, activities, and welfare of our synagogue.*

[illegible]

*Jim & Ruth Nabi - Friend*



## VOYAGEURS DE LA MER

*Shabbat Shalom, Rabbi Maimon Pinto*