



Congregation Spanish & Portuguese

שארית ישראל

במדבר

Parashat Shelah

פרשת שלח

ROSH HODESH TAMMUZ

MONDAY/LUNDI JUNE 22 JUIN & TUESDAY/MARDI JUNE 23 JUIN

החדש הזה לכם

Shelah 5780: United We Stand; Divided We Fall
By: Rabbi Yitzchak Zweig

As the world continues to slowly open up, we are confronted by the reality that we suddenly find ourselves in summer. Summertime is the time generally set aside for travel and touring, so now's the time to consider what we would like to do now that we can finally leave our homes. Many families are itching to go somewhere – anywhere.

Did you know that in this week's Torah reading we find the first use of the word "tour"? In this week's portion, Moses sends out 12 "spies" to explore the land of Israel and bring back a reconnaissance report to the Jewish people. The Torah calls this exploration "תור" - to tour the land; quite literally the same word in both languages. Thus, to tour really means to explore.

I am reminded of the joke about the tourist who drives along the shore of the Dead Sea and spots a fisherman with his rod casting his line into the water. The tourist, surprised, stops and tries to explain in his broken Hebrew to the fisherman that no fish can possibly live in the Dead Sea. The fisherman says, "Actually, there are fish here. For \$10, you may sit next to me and I will show you."

The curious tourist paid the \$10 and waited patiently. After an hour, the tourist says, "Hey, where are the fish? And by the way, how many fish did you catch today?" The fisherman answers, "You are number 6."

This week's Torah reading recounts the tragic episode of the 12 spies who were sent by Moses and the Jewish people to explore the land of Israel and to produce a report on the land and its inhabitants. According to Jewish tradition, 10 of the 12 spies conspired as a group to slander the land of Israel. According to some opinions, they were motivated to do so by the fear that they would lose their positions of leadership when the nation entered the land of Israel. Only Joshua, son of Nun, and Caleb, son of Yefuneh, refused to participate. The 12 spies spent forty days investigating the land of Israel and upon their return the 10 conspirators twisted much of what they observed into a very negative narrative.

Facts can be interpreted in a number of ways. Invariably, when one has an agenda to promote, one way or another the facts will support whatever position one is trying to establish.

So, it should come as no surprise that 3,300 years ago the 10 spies used the same device to promote their agenda. Here is what the Torah recounts:

And Moses sent them to spy out the land of Canaan, and said to them; "Explore the land, what it is, and

observe the people who live in it, whether they are strong or weak, few or many. Examine the land that they live in, whether it is good or bad; and the cities in which they live, whether in open encampments, or in fortresses. And what the land is, whether it is fat or lean, whether there is wood in it, or not. Have good courage and bring back some of the fruits of the land" (Numbers 13:17-20).

According to Jewish tradition, much of what they observed they turned into a negative narrative. They started positively enough by talking about a land flowing with milk and honey and they showed off the very impressive fruits that they brought back.

But, they cautioned, the inhabitants of the land are very strong and are living in fortified cities. In order to frighten the nation, they highlighted that enemy nations lived nearby; including one, the Amalekites, who had viciously attacked them the previous year. They recounted seeing scary giants and that the land devours its inhabitants. (According to the Talmud they had observed many funerals and concluded that the land kills her inhabitants. In truth, God wanted them to be able to travel unhindered and without being observed so He set about distracting the inhabitants.)

Many of the facts were woven together to create a narrative that entering the land of Israel was a suicide mission. As much as Joshua and Caleb tried to dissuade the people from buying into the negative portrayal of the land, they were unable to do so. The Jewish people reacted with horror and desperation and started wailing loudly – and quite astonishingly – concluded that they were better off appointing a new leader and returning to Egypt!

Unsurprisingly, God was very displeased and decreed that entirety of the nation would wander in the desert for forty years (one year for every day that the spies spent in the land) until the entire generation died out. This happened on the 9th of Av, and according to tradition God declared, "You cried on this night for no reason. I will give you a reason to cry forevermore on this day."

The 9th of Av is now the anniversary of some of the most horrible things that have happened in Jewish history including the destruction of BOTH temples. Countless other tragic events also occurred on that day, such as on the 9th of Av in 1492 when all Jews of Spain were designated to leave the country. In 1914, World War I broke on the 9th of Av; when Germany declared war on Russia set the stage for the soon-to-come Holocaust. In 1942, on the 9th of Av, the mass deportation of Jews from Warsaw Ghetto began, sending them to Treblinka.

Shabbat Shalom

Shabbat Shalom

Start/Début 8:28 pm.

End/Fin 9:45 pm.

Havdalah

Services Schedule

Horaire des Offices

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

SHAHRI: 8:30 a.m.
Everyday Monday through Friday

Afternoon/Evening Services:

Minha/Arvit 7:30
Fridays 5:00

Our Week Day Services
Zoom meeting ID: 5264381158

Sunday-Friday 8:30 a.m. & 7:45 p.m.
Services with Rabbi Pinto & Hazzan Benlolo.
Sunday - Thursday: Thought of the Day with Rabbi Pinto: 9:30 a.m. & 7:45 p.m.

Monday, June 22

Services begin at 8:30 A.M.
Live from the Iny Chapel with
Rabbi Pinto & Hazzan Benlolo

Following services Rabbi & Cantor will
visit cemetery to recite weekly hashcabot.
Send names of loved ones to:
rabbi@thespanish.org

Mercredi, 24 juin - 20h30
La Cabale de Soi avec Rav. Pinto
Magie, mystères et mysticism

Thursday, June 25 at 12 p.m.
VIRTUAL LUNCH & LEARN WITH RABBI PINTO
Timeless Teachings from The Ethics of our
Fathers (watch your emails for details).

Friday - 5:00PM - Light YOUR Sparks
Discover the most celebrated day of
the Jewish calendar, SHABBAT.
Friday evenings join me for a pre-Kabbalat
Shabbat full of melodies & inspirational sparks

Saturday Night Havdalah
(15 minutes after Shabbat)
Join us in a musical Havdalah & enter
the week with song & gladness.
Zoom Meeting ID 526 438 1158

Quote of the Week

It's not what you look at that matters,
it's what you see.

Henry David Thoreau
- Aish HaTorah

Beit Hamidrash Helwani
בית המדרש הלואני
פארנס השנה - Parnass Hashana
פארנס הכבוד - Parnass Hakavod
Joseph & Betty Nezri
Mayer & Muriel Sasson
 In Honour of Rabbi Cantor Yehuda Abittan

PROGRAMME DU BEIT HAMIDRASH

שיעור יומי

PROGRAMME QUOTIDIEN - HOK LEISRAËL
 DIM.-VEN. APRÈS SHAHRIT **RABBI MAIMON PINTO**

ZOOM MEETING ID: 5264381158

PARNASS HAYOM **פארנס היום**
Sunday/Dimanche 29 Siyan - June 21 juin

Spanish & Portuguese, in memory of Laura Mizrahi ז"ל.

Carole & Elie Cohen & Famille,
 à la mémoire de Rafael Shimon Cohen ben Olga ז"ל.

Tuesday/Mardi 1 Tammuz - June 23 juin

Henri & Arlene Abitan, en l'honneur de Jimmy Levy.

Friday/Vendredi 4 Tammuz - June 26 juin

Mike Yuval, in memory of his parents, Naima & Ovadia Yuval ז"ל.



HALAKHA **הלכה**

BENDING THE TRUTH FOR THE SAKE OF PEACE

Question: May one lie to one's father or mother so as not to cause an argument between one's parents?

Answer: The Torah states that when Sarah heard that she would conceive a son, "Sarah laughed to herself and said, 'After I have become worn out shall my skin become smooth? But my master is old!'" What this means to say is that Sarah was saying that since Avraham Avinu was close to the age of one-hundred when she was notified that Yitzchak would be born from them, Sarah thought to herself that such a thing was impossible since Avraham was so old and that he would never be able to father a child at this point. Later, when Hashem came to Avraham and asked him, "Why is it that Sarah laughed?" he changed her words somewhat and told him that Sarah said, "I have grown old," meaning that she blamed the fact that they would not be able to conceive any longer on the fact that she was very old. Our Sages in Masechet Baba Metzia (87a) deduce from here that one may bend the truth for the sake of peace as we find that Hashem bent the truth slightly so as to cause harmony between Avraham and his wife, Sarah.

Rabbeinu Yehuda Ha'Chassid writes in his Sefer Chassidim that if one carries out a certain task which one's mother requested him to perform and afterwards his father asks him why he has done this and one knows that if he tells his father that he has done so as per his mother's request that this will cause an argument to ensue between his parents, one should not tell his father that his mother has told him to do so; rather, one should bend the truth for the sake of peace. The source for this is the Gemara that we have mentioned regarding Avraham and Sarah. Maran zt"l rules accordingly.

We must make mention, however, that is extremely important that one not become accustomed to lying for the sake of peace on a consistent basis; rather, one must try to avoid, wherever possible, situations that will cause one to lie. Similarly, the Gemara in Masechet Yevamot (63a) relates that Rav, one of the greatest Amora'im, did not merit living harmoniously with his wife. She would always ask him which food he would like to eat upon returning from the Bet Midrash. If he replied that he would like a dish of lentils (which are somewhat sweet), she would prepare him a sour dish and vice versa. She would do this deliberately to cause him angst and to create an overall sense of discord in the home.

When Chiya, son of Rav, matured and realized the extent of his mother's actions, this upset him very much, but he found a solution. Every time his mother would ask what his father would like to eat, he himself would go and ask his father what wished to eat. If his father would reply that he would like something sweet, he would tell his mother that his father wished to eat something sour and vice versa. In this way, Rav received exactly what he wanted to eat every day. Indeed, Rav even thought that his wife had mended her ways and wished to stop tormenting him. When Rav eventually found out what his son had been up to, he called him over and told him not to do this anymore, for the verse states, "They trained their tongues to speak falsehood," meaning that when a person accustoms himself to lie consistently, although he may be doing this in a permissible fashion, his tongue becomes accustomed to saying lies. Indeed, the verse states, "A speaker of lies shall not settle before My eyes," for falsehood is exceptionally abhorrent to Hashem.

Summary: One may bend the truth for the sake of peace; however, one should be careful not to grow accustomed to lying, even if it is in a permissible manner.

Halacha Yomit

Shabbat Shalom, Rabbi Maimon Pinto

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

SHABBOS, June 20TH

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

**WORDS FROM RABBI WHITE
 Shelah 5780**

In this week's parasha, the people have received the Torah, and are poised to enter the land of Israel. Moshe sends out the *meraglim*, a group of people to check out the land, its people, the cities, and the suitability for agriculture. They came back with a report, saying that the inhabitants were stronger than the Israelites, and that they should not proceed to the promised land.

As a result of their report, the people wanted to turn back to Egypt.

Because of this, the people were punished with having to wander 40 years in the desert, and the *meraglim* were severely punished.

But what was the sin of the *meraglim*? Weren't they just doing their job and bringing back a report?

Two answers: 1) Their job was just to report on the facts. It was not their job to give an opinion. The old-timers among us will remember the words of Jack Webb on Dragnet: "just the facts, ma'am." Such a contemporary advice: think of all the danger being caused by people sprouting unfounded ideas on social media.

2) My wife stresses that their fault was that they exaggerated: according to the *meraglim*, all the inhabitants of Canaan were "people of great size" and they must have thought we were like grasshoppers.

Remember the old adage: "if I've told you once, I've told you a million times, don't exaggerate!"

Without exaggeration: may you all have a restful and healthy Shabbat!

Shabbat shalom

Dear Friends, our visits at the cemetery have been a real positive experience, for ourselves & those in attendance. Initially our objective was to recite the Hashkavot & memorial prayers to be shared with the congregation via our weekly email. On one of our visits, we met many members & shared very special moments with them in prayer. News spread fast & many of you expressed the desire to meet us at the cemetery to pray for your dearly departed.

With this in mind, we are offering you the opportunity to join us at Mount Royal cemetery on *Mondays from 10:30 a.m.-12 p.m.* for a memorial service.

To schedule an appointment, please send an email to: linda.abody@thespanish.org

We wish you all a wonderful & healthy Shabbat, **Rabbi Maimon Pinto & Chazzan Daniel Benlolo**



MAJOR DONORS PROGRAM

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.

We are pleased to announce the following congregants who have made very generous 3-Year donations:

« » « » « » « » « » « » « » « » « »

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