



Shearith Israel
SPANISH &
PORTUGUESE
Synagogue of Montreal
Est. 1768

SHABBAT BULLETIN

December 18, 2021 | 14 Tevet 5782



Parashat Vayehi

Biblical Wildlife
Par: Rabbin Maimon Pinto

While I was reviewing this week's Torah portion, I found myself wondering in the Babylonian Talmud, searching for a famous and profound passage about the good qualities one may learn from animals. Rabbi Yohanan said: Even if the Torah had not been given, we would nonetheless have learned modesty from the cat, which covers its excrement, and that stealing is objectionable from the ant, which does not take grain from another ant, and forbidden relations from the dove, which is faithful to its partner, and proper relations from the rooster, which first appeases the hen and then mates with it.

How did I get there from the Parasha?

Well, it starts with Jacob reuniting his children to pass on his final words and blessings at the end of his life.

The issue of succession is a recurring theme in the book of Genesis. The book of Genesis constantly evokes the issue of succession: the difficulty of transmitting an intangible and fragile idea to the next generation. Leading up to this week's Parasha, tensions and conflicts have accompanied the succession, but only one of the siblings inherits the spiritual heritage.

Now, at this reunion for the first time, the twelve sons of Jacob are given the mission. They are to carry the legacy of Abraham. Each of them has a specific quality that will make a decisive contribution to Jewish history.

Jacob uses animal metaphors to describe several of his sons:

"A lion cub, a lion, is Judah ... He squats down, rests like a lion, and like a lion, who will wake him up? "

"Issakhar is a bony donkey, lying between the limits. "

"Dan will be a serpent on the road, a viper on the trails, who bites the heels of the horse so that its rider falls back. "

"Naphtali is a quick gazelle who speaks beautiful words. "

"Benjamin is a wolf; he makes his prey; in the morning, he engages in pillage, and in the evening, he divides the booty. "

Beasts of prey and domestic animals are used to describe the tribes. Allegorically, Wild animals represent a passion for the mission of Tikkun ha Olam, while domestic animals - easily tamed - represent submission and commitment to the divine will.

In Kabbalistic terminology, the spiritual life dynamic lies in the alternation between "running" and "returning." "Running" represents the longing to escape the limits of one's existence, the feeling of passionate love for our father in heav-

en. "Running" is the feeling of inspiration, but inspiration alone is like a flame without fuel that evaporates if not followed by a "return" - that is, tangible, concrete action.

Both qualities, "running" and "coming back," are necessary for any human endeavor. A successful business requires vision, inspiration, and passionate energy (running), as well as a commitment to doing the essential but time-consuming groundwork (coming back).

The same goes for relationships. Without emotion, there is no energy, no fire, no inspiration. But "running" is not in itself enough. For a connection to endure, there has to be a mutual commitment, no matter how much heart and feelings you have at the time.

The same goes for our relationship with G-D. The Torah seeks to inspire us with love and awe. We start the day by striving to "run," escape the mundane, transcend matter, and connect with G-D. Yet Judaism teaches that we must "return" to the earth to sanctify it. We must "come back" with inspiration and commit to doing divine will in this world.

Jacob brings his children together and reminds them that each of their qualities is essential to Jewish history. We must "run," passionate, like the lion, but also "come back," committed and reliable, like the donkey.

Shabbat Shalom

SHABBAT SHALOM

Start/Debut **End/Fin**
3:53 p.m. **5:03**

Parashat Vayehi - Hertz page 180
Haftarah Kings - Hertz page 191

Shabbat Services
Shahrit: 8:30 Mincha: 3:45

WEEKLY SERVICE SCHEDULES

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

Monday - Friday
Shahrit: **7:30 a.m.**
Mincha: **4:00 p.m.**

CHEVRA SHAAS Service Schedule

SHABBOS, DECEMBER 18th
Schachris 9:30 a.m.

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 19th
Schachris 8:00 a.m.

BEIT HAMIDRASH HELWANI WITH RABBI PINTO

Monday through Friday
8:40 a.m. - Hok L'Israel

Dvar Torah / Classes
Halakha Shiur - Sunday after services
Monday, Tuesday, Thursday & Friday
8:25 a.m. - Halakha/Talmud / Hok L'Israel
4:25 p.m. - Jewish Wisdom / Parasha

Dear friends,

I am here for you. Whether you want to ask a question, consult, learn or just chat, you can call me on my mobile (514) 506-3164 or to my email rabbi@thespanish.org

I am available 24/6.
Shabbat, emergencies only
Rabbi Maimon Pinto

*To contact Reverend Hazan
Daniel Benlolo:
cantorbenlolo@thespanish.org
(514) 892-2859*



QUOTE OF THE WEEK

Good is the enemy of great!

| Aish HaTorah

OPINION

Chevra Shaas Words From Rabbi Menahem White VAYEHI 5782

This past Sunday, there was a program in the Spanish in memory of my dear colleague Rabbi Howard Joseph z"l. The Spanish Portuguese of Montreal, Shearith Israel, was indeed privileged to have had such a distinguished leader for so many years.

Meaningful speeches were delivered by our President and former President, by Dr. Norma Joseph, and by their children Ami and Rabbi Josh. The speakers discussed the Rabbi's kindness, spirituality, and dignity; his scholarship and teaching. [He was a most worthy student of his and my great mentor, Rabbi Soloveitchik [the "Rav."]

Especially noteworthy was how an

anglophone Ashkenazic rabbi from NYC was able to adapt so well to a Sephardi congregation, with many francophone members.

Dr. Norma brilliantly discussed the word *hineni*, "here I am." This was the response of Abraham at the Aqedah, of Moses at the burning bush, and of the biblical Joseph when called on by his father Jacob to check on the brothers, despite their enmity [but not said by Adam, when asked "where are you," and, for whatever reason, was not said by Yoseph to his father when rising to power in Egypt.] Our Rabbi Joseph exemplified the ideal of *hineni*: always there for the members of the shul and for the community.

yehi zikhro varukh. His memory will certainly be for a blessing.

So, Rabbi Joseph rose to the challenge of leading the Spanish. I might add that the Book of Bereishis/Genesis is

filled with challenges: how will Adam respond to the offering of the forbidden fruit; how will Cain respond to finishing second in the sacrifice competition; how will Abraham respond to the challenges of drought in Canaan; how will Isaac respond to Ishmael's taunting; how will Jacob respond to his mother's request for dissimulation, and then to an abrupt change in life as he has to escape to Lavan; and, of course, how will Joseph respond to the advances of Mrs. Potiphar, and then to the appearance of his brothers in Egypt to purchase food?

The Book of Genesis ends with Joseph making peace with his brothers and creating a unity. Joseph rose to the occasion! And although we shall soon read in the Book of Shemot how our people were enslaved, can you imagine: had Joseph not succeeded in creating unity, we would never have made it out of Egypt! Shabbat shalom!

Rabbi/Dr. Joseph Shiurim Many of you have asked last Sunday, during Rabbi Joseph commemoration, here is the link to Rabbi Josh Joseph's site where you will find his shiurim based on his father's, Rabbi Joseph zt"l, teachings. This link will take you to all past shiurim. If it doesn't, click on "authors" at the top of the page, scroll down until you see Josh's picture, click on it and you will be taken to his page: <https://allparsha.org/authors/134396>



S&P Shabbat Kiddush is Co-Sponsored by:

Noemi Bitton Dupuy, in memory of her mother, Vivianne Bitton Dupuy z'l and her grandmother, Simy Bitton Lasry z'l.
Marc Ezerzer, in memory of his father, Isaac Yitzchak ben Shmuel z'l.

S&P Shabbat Seudah is Sponsored by:

Ann & Dan Sequerra, in memory of his father, Haim Sequerra z'l.

Our Condolences To:



Selim Sasson, on the loss of his sister, Sheila David bat Rosa Gallante z'l. in Israel.



Dr. Norma Joseph, on the loss of her sister, Elaine Baumel Kramer z'l. in Ohio



Irwin Miller, on the loss of his brother, Monroe Miller z'l.

C'est avec beaucoup d'émotion que nous vous invitons à partager avec nous l'anniversaire de l'année de *Aaron Cohen z'l*, notre papy adoré, qui nous a quitté voici presque 11 mois. Nous commémorerons ce premier anniversaire de son décès le dimanche 19 décembre 2021 à sa synagogue, Espagnole & Portugaise, durant l'office de *Minha/Arvit* qui débute à 16h. Une collation sera servie à l'issue de l'Office. Nous serions très honorés de votre présence à cet événement qui nous aidera à clôturer cette année de deuil. L'événement sera transmis par zoom: (<https://www.thespanish.org/>) office du jour *Yolande, Clarisse, Alain & Claude Cohen et familles*

Congregation Maghen Abraham

Thoughts: Mayer Sasson - PARASHA VAYEHI

"Even if you meant to do evil to me, G-d meant it unto good..." (50,20)

Gratefulness for shame - I found a story that was from the Grand Rabbi of Slonim, author of Birkat Avraham: There was once a righteous man name Rabbi Mendle of Prishmalan, who is buried in Tiveria. He once came to the synagogue and invited his friends to a feast of gratefulness.

His friends asked him, "What is the reason for this feast? Were you or one of your family members sick, G-d forbid? Rabbi Mendle answered that thank G-d everyone was fine and healthy and

nothing special had happened. "It is just that I was now walking in the city and from Heaven it was decreed that I have serious, terrible shame, I was disgraced for no fault of mine! I therefore want to thank G-d and express my gratitude with a feast of gratefulness." "Why a feast of gratefulness for disgrace that you faced," his friends asked. "I see that you do not understand the idea of a feast of gratefulness," Rabbi Mendle responded. "Do you think a feast of gratefulness is brought only by someone who recovered from an illness? For what does he have to be grateful?

It would have been better if he had never been sick, and what does he have to thank to the One Who made him sick and then cured him?" "The idea is that "there is no one righteous who has not sinned" and every time a person sins in a small or large sin he is, unfortunately, charged with judgments against him. They accumulate into piles until the time comes for him to pay up and he becomes very sick. After he recovers from his illness he thanks G-d for having been sick and thereby being saved from the judgments that were resting upon him. He is now clean and pure. Think about it: His illness hurt not only him but all his family and friends as well who worried about him; he had to spend a lot of money on doctors and medications, and usually, after the illness the patient does not

return to his original strength and suffers from pains or weak health for a period of time, sometimes, unfortunately, until the end of his life." "Now that I merited public disgrace, in one go I finished with all those piles of judgments that were upon me. No one had to worry about me, my family remained tranquil and calm, I did not have to send extra money on doctors and medication and remained healthy and fit as always. But what happened? For a short time I was shamed terribly." "Therefore, how much more so do I have to bring a feast of thankfulness, for I no longer have those judgments against me and the price I paid was relatively cheap, without any pain and damage for a lengthy time."

SHABBAT SHALOM!!

COMMUNITY

Jewish Wisdom

Moj, Toi et nous !
Rabbi Maimon Pinto

Jacob leur a donné toutes les bénédictions qu'il a données à chacun individuellement. Genèse
Bien que nous ayons chacun nos rôles uniques dans notre mission divine de faire de ce monde la maison de D.ieu, nous sommes tous impliqués dans une certaine mesure dans les rôles joués par les autres également. Il existe trois moyens de plus en plus efficaces pour y parvenir:

Nous nous concentrons tous exclusivement sur nos tâches personnelles, mais puisque nous travaillons vers le même objectif, nous partageons tous les résultats de nos réalisations distinctes.

Nous nous invitons et nous encourageons les uns les autres à participer occasionnellement à l'activité personnelle que nous soulignons.

Lorsque nous nous engageons périodiquement dans des tâches autres que notre point fort, nous nous y immergeons aussi complètement que nous le faisons lorsque nous nous engageons dans notre tâche personnelle.

Participer aux efforts de chacun favorise l'unité juive, nous rendant dignes des bénédictions de D.ieu, y compris - et surtout - la bénédiction ultime, la Rédemption messianique.

Got A Question for Reverend/Hazan Daniel Benlolo?

Dear friends, I found this anonymous jewel and I thought you would like it.

The Dear reader,

This Shabbat, I decided to share with you some words of wisdom from Noah benShea's book "Jacob the Baker: Gentle Wisdom for a Complicated World:" Noah is one of North America's most respected and beloved poet philosophers. He is a Pulitzer Prize nominated and international Best-Selling author.

I hope you are enlightened by the following thoughts.

1. Either the key to a man's wallet is in his heart, or the key to a man's heart is in his wallet. So, unless you express your charity, you are locked inside your greed.
2. I don't pray because it makes sense to pray. I pray because my life doesn't make sense without prayer.
3. Wisdom does not make me full. It fills me with hunger.
4. The fears we cannot climb become our walls.
5. Prayer is a path where there is none.
6. My heart knows what my mind only think it knows.
7. An eternity is any moment opened with patience.
8. Too often, those who do not dream seek to destroy the dreamer by waking him.
9. A miracle is often the willingness to see the common in an uncommon way.

Shabbat Shalom, Reverend Hazan Daniel Benlolo

Starting **MONDAY, DEC. 20**, to attend DAILY & SHABBAT services at the Spanish, Chevra Shaas & Maghen Abraham, **proof of double vaccination is MANDATORY.** For Shabbat services proof of double vaccination must be submitted Fridays 10am- before Shabbat & it will be kept on file for future reference. **Unvaccinated people will be turned away at the door.** Thank you for understanding

PARNASS HAYOM BEIT HAMIDRASH HELWANI

SHABBAT 14 TEVET - DECEMBER 18

Familles Abittan & Nezri, à la mémoire de leur frère & beau-frère, Sam Abittan Saul ben Aicha ז"ל.

SUNDAY/DIMANCHE 15 TEVET - DECEMBER 19

Dorothy Karkoukly, in memory of her husband, Solly Karkoukly ז"ל.

MONDAY/LUNDI 16 TEVET - DECEMBER 20

Martha Lawee, in memory of her brother, Haim Tapiero ז"ל.

TUESDAY/MARDI 17 TEVET - DECEMBER 21

Sampson Family, in memory of Shimshon Nachshon Sampson ז"ל.

Sachs Families, in memory of Esther Cohen Hakak ז"ל.

WEDNESDAY/MERCREDI 18 TEVET - DECEMBER 22

Noemi & Isabelle Dupuy, à la mémoire de leur mère, Vivianne Bitton Dupuy ז"ל.

Jacqueline Anson, à la mémoire de sa soeur, Vivianne Bitton Dupuy ז"ל.

THURSDAY/JEUDI 19 TEVET - DECEMBER 23

Famille Bitton, à la mémoire de leurs parents, Abraham Simon & Simy Bitton ז"ל.

Jacqueline Anson , à la mémoire de sa mère, Simy Bitton Lasry ז"ל.

FRIDAY/VENDREDI 20 TEVET - DECEMBER 24

Dan Sequerra, à la mémoire de son père, Haim Sequerra ז"ל.

Sylvia Shahin, in memory of her father, Salim Akairib ז"ל.

Upcoming Events



Tuesday, January 11 | 7:00 - 8:00 pm
Improve your Arabic. First of many Tuesday nigh sessions
Registration required: sisterhood2020@hotmail.com OR Grace at (514) 979-9779
Meeting ID: 881 1057 1315 Passcode: SUPERSIS



Sunday, January 16 (All Day) Save The Date
SPY Tu B'Shvat Party

Time and Location To Be Advised



Monday, January 17 (All Day) Save The Date
Tu B'Shvat Enchanted Seder

Time and Location To Be Advised



Tuesday, January 18 | 7:00 - 8:00 pm
Sisterhood Health Series: Joanna's Pawdcast "Don't Fret Over Your Pet" with Dr. Joanna Singerman BSc, BVetMed, MV, Veterinarian
Join Zoom ID 881 1057 1315 Passcode SUPERSIS



Tuesday, January 25 | 12:00 - 1:00 pm
Sisterhood Book Review: "The Last Watchman of Old Cairo" By Michael David Lukas - Reviewer: Pamela Iny
RSVP: sisterhood2020@hotmail.com
Zoom ID 895 2182 1866 - Password: SISBOOK



Shabbat, February 12 Save The Date
Musical Havdalah

Time and Location To Be Advised



Join me Shabbat after services and kiddush for Parasha of the week insights and discussion.
Every week we will explore different themes, ideas, and teachings from the Torah and how they apply to our daily lives.
During this intimate encounter members will have the opportunity to ask and exchange with the Rabbi on various topics. Desert, refreshments, and L'Haim will be served.