

Dvar Torah from Rabbi Mimran: Va'era Pharaoh's Narcissism

Dear Congregation,

In the Exodus narrative, Pharaoh's cruelty to the Jewish people is, of course, a given. Yet, what is far more subtle, is the callousness with which Pharaoh relates to his own nation. As we read the first seven of the ten plagues in this week's portion, Va'era, we cannot help but be struck by the degree to which Pharaoh seems completely unconcerned with the suffering and death of the Egyptian masses.

Nowhere does the Torah record Pharaoh sending out messengers, let alone personally emerging from the palace, to ascertain the damage caused by each plague to the Egyptian populace. Apparently, Egyptian suffering was not of sufficient interest for Pharaoh to wish to know the simple facts. During the first plague, as the Egyptian people are desperately digging around the Nile for water, Pharaoh retreated into his own palace and insulated himself from the terrible plight of his own people. During the second plague, he asks for the plague to be removed from him, and only then, from his people. There is no question as to who comes first in this narcissist's mind.

Pharaoh's reckless narcissism and disregard for the average Egyptian are highlighted when contrasted with Moshe's deep sense of concern for the suffering of his people. Later in the Book of Exodus, Moshe actually insists that he would rather his name be erased - that is, he would rather die - than see the destruction of the Jewish people, with a new nation to be built from Moshe himself. While the Egyptian despot would allow his nation to die so that he might continue to wield power, the Jewish servant-leader, most humble of men, would rather die so that the nation might live.

The Jewish leadership ethic was born in diametric contrast to the Egyptian one, in which exemplary leadership is expressed through service of the people, through sharing in their distress, and through self-sacrifice for the betterment of the nation.

Have a great Shabbos!

Rabbi Sholom Mimran

tinyurl.com/Shabbat1-1-2022



Vaera

Shabbat, January 1, 2022 (Tevet 28, 5782)

Shabbat Mevarchim

Erev Shabbat

Friday, December 31 (Tevet 27)

4:22 pm - Early Candle Lighting

5:00 pm - * *Mincha / Kabbalat Shabbat / Maariv*

5:06 pm - Late Candle Lighting

Shabbat

Saturday, January 1 (Tevet 28)

Happy New Year!!

9:00 am - * *Shacharit*

9:52 am - Latest preferable time to say Shema

4:35 pm - * *Mincha / Seudah Shlishit*

6:05 pm - *Maariv / Havdallah*

Kiddush Sponsor: Lenny & Barbie Zucker

In memory of Lenny's mother, Maxine Zucker, at yahrzeit time.

* Sign up for Shabbat services at Dortikvah.org/event/Join-Minyan
by 5pm Fridays.

Babysitting is available from 9am to noon on Shabbat.

*Masks are now required for all indoor services and activities.
See our full Safe Services protocol at Dortikvah.org/services.html.*

Sunday Minyan
Sunday, January 2 (Tevet 29)

8:30 am - Shacharit

Coffee and doughnuts will be available. If you plan to attend, please message the Services Group Chat: bit.ly/DTMinyan, or contact Greg at giyarus@gmail.com.

Upcoming Kiddush Sponsors

To schedule a sponsorship, contact info@dortikvah.org.

1/8 - **Available** 1/15 - Joe & Edie Rubin 1/22 - Ezra & Ilisa Cappell

DOR TIKVAH EVENTS & PROGRAMS

◆ **Tu B'Shvat Seder - Jan. 16, 5:00 pm**

Celebrate the holiday of the trees with us (and Rabbi Mimran). All ages welcome! For questions, contact youth@dortikvah.org. Updates at Dortikvah.org/event/Seder-2022.

◆ **Middle School Shabbaton - Jan. 21 - 22**

Grade 7 & up, join us for a fun-filled Shabbat with friends. Details and REGISTRATION at Dortikvah.org/event/Shabbaton-22.

COMMUNITY EVENTS & PROGRAMS

◆ **PJ in the Park Playdate - Jan. 23, 10:00 am**

Join PJ and Shalom Baby for another PJ in the Park, hosted by Leah Mahoney at Lenevar Playground in West Ashely.

CLASSES

Daf Yomi with Rabbi Paul & Yoni Alon

Sunday-Thursday 8:30 pm, Zoom Meeting ID: 5212585813

Contact Dovid for details. dovid.felzenberg@gmail.com

LIFE CYCLE

Birthdays

- Katie Beckmann (12/31)
- Sam Kirshtein (1/4)

Yahrzeits

- Seymour Stricker, Father of Michael Stricker (12/31)
- Boobie Wolper, Great Great Aunt of Nathan Kirshstein (12/31)
- Morris Lazarus, Great Uncle of Nathan Kirshstein (1/3)
- Maxine Zucker, Mother of Lenny Zucker (1/5)
- Sylvia Kirshstein, Mother of Nathan Kirshstein (1/5)

REFUAH SHLEIMA

To have a name added or removed, contact charlessteinert@gmail.com.

- | | |
|-------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| • Joyce Williams | • Talia bat Shoshana |
| • Yoseph Yitzak ben Alitza | • Peretz ben Chaim |
| • Rivka Kayla bat Tami Zeisel | • Chaim ben Asenath |
| • Dovid Moshe ben Sarah Ruth | • Simcha ben Ettie |
| • Ari Simcha ben Ettie Shira | • Hank Legare |
| • Moshe ben Esther | • Esther bat Alitza |
| • Luther Reynolds | • Hodel bat Raozel |
| • Elijah Meyer ben Chaya | • Nachama Chana bat Tzipporah Rachel |

CONTRIBUTIONS

Donations can be made at Dortikvah.org or by mail. Contributions of \$10 or more will be acknowledged here. Thank you for your support!

➤ **Jonathan & Laura Zucker**

➤ **Joe & Edie Rubin**

➤ **Lenny & Barbie Zucker**

- For the speedy recovery of David Gilston.

➤ **Sharon & Michael Stricker**

- In memory of Peter Rosenthal's mother, Eva Spangenthal.

➤ **Gerald Katz**

- In memory of his loving wife, Sandy Katz (A"H).

➤ **Temmey & Carl Novit**

- In memory of Peter Rosenthal's mother, Eva Spangenthal.