

BJC Wensa

"WENSA" MEANS "FUN" IN JUDEO-ARABIC!

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5 Nissan, 5774

VOLUME 20

METZORAH

SHABBAT ENDS 8:05PM

Publisher: Anna Khabbaza Hakakian

PARSHA OF THE WEEK....

METZORAH

This week's reading, *Metzora*, discusses the purification process for one who contracts "tzara'at" (skin maladies which are contracted as a result of engaging in forbidden gossip), and the symptoms and laws of "house tzara'at," indicated by certain stone discolorations. Following is a discussion of various ritual impurities, including the laws of the menstruating woman.

Last week's Parshah described the signs of the metzora (commonly mistranslated as "leper")—a person afflicted by a spiritual malady which places him or her in a state of ritual impurity. This week's Torah reading begins by detailing how the recovered metzora is purified by the kohen (priest) with a special procedure involving two birds, spring water in an earthen vessel, a piece of cedar wood, a scarlet thread and a bundle of hyssop.

A home can also be afflicted with tzaraat by the appearance of dark red or green patches on its walls. In a process lasting as long as nineteen days, a kohen determines if the house can be purified, or whether it must be demolished.

Ritual impurity is also engendered through a seminal or other discharge in a man, and menstruation or other discharge of blood in a woman, necessitating purification through immersion in a mikvah.



Weekly Parsha:
Tazria-Metzorah

A Metzora is a person who has tzaraat. This person is impure and has to leave the camp (or city) and wait there until the tzaraat goes away. When the kohen visits him outside of the camp and see that he no longer has tzaraat, he does a special procedure with two birds, spring water, a cedar stick, a strip of red wool, and a bundle of the herb hyssop. Then the person washes his clothing, shaves his hair and immerses in the mikvah. He is now purified and may return to the camp.

Houses can also be afflicted with tzaraat, and again it is the kohen's job to identify it. If he detects tzaraat in the walls of the house, he locks up the house and it is left alone for seven days. If the tzaraat then disappears, the house is fine, but if nothing happens, or if the tzaraat has spread, the afflicted stones are removed and replaced, the walls are replastered, and the house is locked up for another seven days. If after the second week the kohen sees that the tzaraat has spread, he declares the the house tameh and it is burned or destroyed.

Garments can also be afflicted with tzaraat. The treatment of an afflicted garment is similar to that of a house.



BJC HAPPENINGS...

We celebrated a museum evening at Rosh Chodesh Adar 1 on Jan. 28, 2014 celebrating our Iraqi Jewish Heritage with a great turn out of men and women.



BJC sisterhood trip to The Museum of Jewish Heritage on April 1, 2014

Contributed by Anna Khabbaza Hakakian

The trip to visit the Discovery and Recovery: Preserving Iraqi Jewish Heritage, was an amazing experience.

Every seat in the bus was filled and the excitement of seeing many of our family's belongings in a museum was very exciting. We shared stories and reminisced about the many childhood memories.

As most of you know, the exhibit which will be in the museum for a short period of time, included many of the Iraqi artifacts that had been found in the flooded basement of the Mukhabarat, the headquarters of Saddam Hussein's intelligence services in Iraq. There were over 2,700 Jewish books and tens of thousands of documents found there, while US was searching for weapons of mass destruction in 2003 and once found and transported, it was restored by the national archives (for 10 years). You can visit the website to look at the many archives and watch the short clips of the "recovery" process. (<http://www.ija.archives.gov/>)

Amongst the items, was this "Tik" – a cover of a Torah scroll. The parchments were generally housed in this rigid "tik," or case made of wood or metal. Originally covered with velvet and metal ornamentation, this tik suffered damage in the flood water. The architectural form of this tik and most other Iraqi examples resembles the silhouette of Iraqi minaret towers.



As we were all gathered around it to view this item, Mr. Shamash, informed us that there is an inscription on a plaque that was placed next to it. It was written in Hebrew and had the "Khabbaza" last name on it!

It was a thrilling experience for me personally. I felt my father's presence as he would have truly enjoyed viewing these items first hand again!!!

Like many who lost all their belongings, many members discovered and recognized friends and family amongst the pictures and names.

The Director of the museum called me later to say, that our group was by far one of the most informed guests they have had. They learned a lot from us and we contributed stories and clarified things for them. Thanks to Elyahu Shamash who shed light on many items, including recognizing a special plaque with my last name on it.

It truly was "Discovery and Recovery" and we WILL and should preserve the Iraqi Jewish Heritage.



More pictures from our Rosh Chodesh event celebrating our Iraqi Heritage....



The Wooden Bowl

~ A touching story on Family, Love, Parents & Relationships

Your PARENTS may NOT be
PERFECT
but they are THE MOST
PRECIOUS GIFT
GOD has ever GIVEN
YOU.

A frail old man went to live with his son, daughter-in-law, and a four-year old grandson. The old man's hands trembled, his eyesight was blurred, and his step faltered.

The family ate together nightly at the dinner table. But the elderly grandfather's shaky hands and failing sight made eating rather difficult. Peas rolled off his spoon onto the floor. When he grasped the glass often milk spilled on the tablecloth.

The son and daughter-in-law became irritated with the mess. "We must do something about grandfather," said the son. I've had enough of his spilled milk, noisy eating, and food on the floor. So the husband and wife set a small table in the corner. There, grandfather ate alone while the rest of the family enjoyed dinner at the dinner table. Since grandfather had broken a dish or two, his food was served in a wooden bowl. Sometimes when the family glanced in grandfather's direction, he had a tear in his eye as he ate alone.

Still, the only words the couple had for him were sharp admonitions when he dropped a fork or spilled food. The four-year-old watched it all in silence.

One evening before supper, the father noticed his son playing with wood scraps on the floor. He asked the child sweetly, "What are you making?" Just as sweetly, the boy responded, "Oh, I am making the bowl for you and mama to eat." The four-year-old smiled and went back to work.

The words so struck the parents that they were speechless. Then tears started to stream down their cheeks. Though no word was spoken, both knew what must be done. That evening the husband took grandfather's hand and gently led him back to the family table. For the remainder of his days he ate every meal with the family. And for some reason, neither husband nor wife seemed to care any longer when a fork was dropped, milk spilled, or the tablecloth soiled.

Children are remarkably perceptive. Their eyes ever observe, their ears ever listen, and their minds ever process the messages they absorb. If they see us patiently provide a happy home atmosphere for family members, they will imitate that attitude for the rest of their lives. The wise parent realizes that every day that building blocks are being laid for the child's future. Let us all be wise builders and role models.

Jewish JOKES



JEWISH WITNESS

Contributed by: Mirra Zara

Mr. Finkelstein is called as a witness in a trial.

"How old are you?" asks the D.A. (District Attorney).

"I am, kaynahoreh, ninety-one."

"Excuse me? What did you say?"

"I said, I am, kaynahoreh, ninety-one years old."

"Sir, the recording clerk can't type unusual words, please just answer the question with no embellishments," says the D.A. "I ask you again, How old are you!?"

"I told you. Kaynahoreh, I'm ninety-one."

The D.A. is really getting annoyed. The judge is also losing his patience. He instructs, "The witness will answer the question simply and plainly or be held in contempt of court!"

The defense lawyer rises and says, "Your Honor, I think I can resolve this. May I ask the question?"

"If you can get this trial moving, please, be my guest."

"Mr. Finkelstein, let me ask, kaynahoroh, how old are you?"

Finkelstein replies, "Ninety-one"

“ ” QUOTES “ ”

"Challenges are what make life interesting and overcoming them is what makes life meaningful." —Joshua J. Marine

Try to be like the turtle: at ease in your own shell. —Bill Copeland

Do not be wise in words, be wise in deeds. —Jewish Proverb

Trust yourself. Create the kind of self that you will be happy to live with all your life. Make the most of yourself by fanning the tiny, inner sparks of possibility into flames of achievement.

—Golda Meir

This family Shabbat was sponsored by Jamila Dallal in memory of Sammy Dallal



FAMILY SHABBAT DATES:

MAY 10, 2014 JUNE 14, 2014



Inspirational...

Little girl and her father were crossing a bridge. The father was kind of scared so he asked his little daughter, "Sweetheart, please hold my hand so that you don't fall into the river." The little girl said, "No, Dad. You hold my hand." "What's the difference?" Asked the puzzled father. "There's a big difference," replied the little girl. "If I hold your hand and something happens to me, chances are that I may let your hand go. But if you hold my hand, I know for sure that no matter what happens, you will never let my hand go."

One Day A Rich Dad Took His Son On A Trip To Village.

He Wanted to show him how poor someone can be. They spent time on the farm of a poor family.

Dad asked, "Did you see how poor they are? What did you learn?"

Son said, "We have one dog, they have four, we have pool, they have rivers, we have lanterns at night, they have stars, we buy foods, they grow theirs, we have walls to protect us, they have friends, we have encyclopaedias, they have Bible"

Then They headed, "Thanks Dad for showing me how poor we are."

MORAL LESSON:

It's not about money that make us rich, it's about simplicity of having God in our lives.



The Last Tango in Baghdad

by Dr. Albert Khabbaza is available at all online booksellers. For more info visit:

www.khabbaza.com

