

ATorahMinute.com



By the Hakham
Rabbi Ya'aqob Menashe

A PROJECT OF MIDRASH BEN ISH HAI (MIDRASH.ORG)

5779/2019 Parashath Mas'ei

5779 פרשת מטות-מסעי

5th of Ab - Anniversary of the Ari z"l

Rabbenu Yisḥaq Luria Ashkenazi, more commonly referred to as the Ari z"l, passed away on the fifth of Ab. Many have the custom of reading a special Tiqqun every year on that night, which was written by the great Qabbalist, Rabbenu Ḥakham Yoseph Ḥayyim, 'a"ḥ.

The Ari z"l was born in Jerusalem to Rabbi Shelomo Luria who was a very pious individual. It is said that Eliyahu Hannabi zl"t (Elijah the prophet) used to reveal himself to him. His mother was also extremely pious. When the Ari z"l was born, Eliyahu Hannabi appeared to his father and instructed him not to perform the Milah (circumcision) till he sees him in the Synagogue. On the eighth day the father did not see Eliyahu Hannabi in the Synagogue and would not proceed. The congregation did not understand why there was a delay, but he would not be rushed.

Eliyahu Hannabi deliberately delayed coming, in order to see if the father would follow his instructions. When he finally arrived he instructed the father to sit on the chair with the child in his hands. Eliyahu Hannabi sat on the father and took the baby into his own hands. No one, not even the Mohel could see Eliyahu Hannabi, except the father.

When the Milah was completed, he returned the baby to the father and told him that a great light would shine forth from this child which would illuminate the whole world.

(See Tiqqun Hamisha
BeAb of Rabbenu

Ḥakham Yoseph Ḥayyim, 'a"ḥ)



מדרש בן איש חי
Midrash BEN ISH HAI

Mas'ei: Why Mention All Their Journeys?

אֵלֶּה מַסְעֵי בְנֵי־יִשְׂרָאֵל אֲשֶׁר יָצְאוּ מֵאֶרֶץ מִצְרַיִם לְצַבְאוֹתָם
בְּיַד־מֹשֶׁה וְאַהֲרֹן These are the journeys of the Children of Israel
who left Egypt according to their legions, under the hand of
Moses and Aaron (Bamidbar 33:1).

Rashi and other Mefarshim ask why all these journeys were recorded. Rashi quotes Ribbi Tanḥuma who gave a parable of king whose son was unwell. The king travelled with his son to a far away destination in order to cure him. Upon their return, the father went over all the various places that they visited during their trip. "In such and such a place we slept", he said. "In such and such a place your head hurt you", and "In this place we got cold".

According to Midrash Tanḥuma, G-d says to the Children of Israel, "Go over all the places where they made me angry". The purpose of this is to remind them of all the places where they took a spiritual fall and would regret their actions. ("In such and such a place we slept", was a reference to the fact that they went to sleep before receiving the Torah).

Rabbenu the Alshekh has a different perspective. He says that G-d mentions places where troubles befell the Children of Israel. The reason G-d mentions them is to show that that He also feels the pain of what befell them in those places. He also mentions the places where they did what was right in His eyes. The purpose in mentioning all these places is to add to their Zekhuth (merit) when they conquer the Land of Israel. In fact, the biggest point which stood in their merit was that they left Egypt without questioning, because it proved their great faith in G-d.

(See Midrash Tanḥuma, Parashath Mas'ei. Alshekh, Parashath Mas'ei. Dibrei
Mordekhai, Parashath Mas'ei)

Subscribe for a daily ATorah Minute™ at:
ATorahMinute.com

Habdalah When 9th of Ab Fast is on Sunday

When the fast of Tish'ah Be-Ab falls on Sunday, we recite the blessing of *Borei Meorei Ha-esh* after the half Qaddish that is said following the 'Amidah of Mo'ṣei Shabbath (Saturday night). No blessing is made on Besamim (sweetfragrance).

When the fast is over on Sunday night, one recites Habdalah on a cup, but without the blessings of Besamim or Meorei Ha-esh.

One who has to eat on Tish'ah Be-Ab, makes Habdalah on a cup, but should not do so right away when Shabbath ends. Instead, he should wait till he wishes to eat. If he only wishes to drink water, he can do so before Habdalah.

Since wine causes happiness, it is preferable to squeeze grapes into a cup or, if that is not possible, he can use grape juice. If there is only wine available, he should use the wine, but only drink a little and then give it to a boy who is not fasting to drink

(See Siddur Ḥamesh Ta'aniot Tefillath Yesharim, pg. 139. Ben Ish Ḥai, 2nd year, Parashath Wayyēsei, Oth 3. Maamar Mordekhai [Eliyahu], 25:17-19)

Construction From Rosh Ḥodesh Ab

From Rosh Ḥodesh Ab till after the fast of Tish'ah BeAb (the 9th of Ab), construction that is merely for pleasure but not necessary, may not be begun at that time. If it is for the purpose of a commandment, however, it is permitted. Construction is permitted for a Synagogue, therefore, even on the eve of Tish'ah BeAb, since it is a מצוה (Miṣwah) for the community.

If one has the kind of roof which people go on and which requires a parapet, one may even construct it on Tish'ah BeAb itself, because it is for the purpose of a commandment. Indeed, it is two commandments from the Torah (Debarim, 22:8):

1. The positive commandment of "Make a parapet on the roof", and
2. The negative commandment of "not placing blood in your home when someone falls from it".

(See Kaf Haḥayyim, 551, Oth 24,32)

The advertisement features a blue background with a central illustration of two hands shaking. The text is arranged as follows:

- Top Left:** A circular portrait of Rabbi Ya'aqob Menashe, with the text "The Renowned Scholar and Speaker" above it.
- Top Center:** "RABBI YA'AOB MENASHE" in large, bold, purple and white letters, with "of Midrash BEN ISH HAI" below it.
- Top Right:** "Tues., Aug. 6, '19, 8:00 p.m." and "In the Ballroom of Colbeh Restaurant".
- Bottom Right (Address):** "75 N. Station Plaza, Great Neck, NY (Opp. LIRR station) Entrance Free (donations always welcome)".
- Center:** "The Aharon HaKohen ע"ה In Us All" in large yellow and white letters.
- Bottom Center:** "Building Peace Among Our People" written across the shaking hands.
- Bottom Left:** Logos for "NonStopTorah.com", "ATorahMinute.com", and "www.midrash.org".
- Bottom Right:** Logos for "Midrash BEN ISH HAI" (with the tagline "Where our Heritage Lives") and "CHAZAQ BUILDING A STRONGER FUTURE".
- Decorative Elements:** Two starburst graphics on the right side containing the text "Special Refreshments" and "For Everybody".

Watch Much More at www.NonstopTorah.com

Sponsorships available. Contact: MIDRASH BEN ISH HAI
P.O. BOX 220133, Great Neck, NY 11022, USA 516-487-6676