

CONGREGATION AGUDATH JACOB

February Shevat/Adar 5780

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From the Desk of

Rabbi Ben-Zion Lanxner



Having just finished reading, **“Rise and Kill First”**: The secret History of Israel’s Targeted Assassination, and also being a passionate reader of spy books on Mossad, Shin bet, and the Israeli military, one of the finest intelligence services in the world, this book published in 2018 by Ronen Bergman, is about to become a hit series on HBO in partnership with Keshet, an Israeli movie producing company which just had the series **“Our Boys”** shown this past few months on the TV screen. This book was also awarded the **“National Jewish Book Award”** in the history category for 2018, and on the New York’s Best Seller list for over one year.

Besides the fact that **“Rise and Kill First”** describes the targeted killings carried out by Israeli secret agencies and the personalities and the tactics used, the book’s title, although not too obviously, is inspired by a Halachic statement in the Talmud, Tractate Sanhedrin, 72 a-b: **“If someone comes to kill you, rise up and kill him first”**. **הבא להרגך השקם להרגך**.

Contrary to our Christian believers, Judaism does not subscribe to the idea that one should **“turn the other cheek”** when attacked. In fact, one important rule taught by the Talmud is in a case of **“Life or Death”** *ha-ba le-horgecha, hashkeim le-horgo* – if someone comes

planning to kill you, you should hurry to kill him first.

You must be wondering by now, why I am suddenly talking about this particular situation, and I totally understand where you are coming from. But before my intentions becomes crystal clear to you, let me make the argument of the Talmud, since we are currently studying Talmud on Sunday morning, that would be of a similar type of mental argumentation.

Having said that, this rule of **“Rise and Kill First”** is applied by our Gemara to the case of a **“ba bamachteret”** – someone who comes at night to rob someone. According to the Mishna, he can be killed **“al shem sofo”** – because of what will happen in the end. Rava explains this to mean that people usually do not willingly allow others to take their money, so the robber fully knows that the person he is robbing, will defend his property and his life.

We assume, therefore, that the robber will be prepared to kill him instead of being killed. Recognizing this, Rava teaches that the Torah instructs *ha-ba le-horgecha, hashkeim le-horgo*, someone who comes planning to kill you, you kill him first. While Rava presents this rule as being well established in the Torah, he does not

offer a source, and it is not clear where, in fact, does the Torah teach this rule?

The *Midrash Tanhuma* says that we learn this rule from the commandment in the book of Number, (Bamidbar 25:17-18) given to Moses telling the Jewish People to harass and smite the Midianites. The explanation given for this is that they harass and plan against you. Thus, in the Torah's view, we see that their plans make them liable to be fought and defeated.

But the Ramah raises the issue that this case is not a normal case of "*rodef*" – someone who is chasing after another person to kill him, who can be killed by anyone – since the robber is not directly threatening the owner of the property; the Rama goes even further in suggesting that it is only his response to the owner of the property who is defending himself that creates the threat.

The Ramah explains that we nonetheless view the robber as a *rodef* since he knows that his actions will instigate the threat against his own life. We therefore view him as being the one who is threatening. (FYI, it would be compared to the same Halachah concerning a pregnant woman whose life is threatened by the fetus she carries, where that Halachah is totally clear like black and white, meaning that if the life of the mother is in danger, she comes first...but that could be a Talmudic/Halachic argumentation for another day).

Having gone through this entire Talmudic argumentation, I am certain, you understand why I brought this subject to the fore.

We have been going back and forth on the subject of "**security**" on our premises since the horrible attack on the Tree of Life Congregation in Pittsburgh, where you all remember the terrible loss of eleven members of our people and so many more families affected by these atrocities, may their lives be for a Blessing, Zichronam LiVrachah, and then the attack on Chabad of Poway and as you know the list goes on...

So, as your Rabbi, I must tell you that I do not have any doubt whatsoever regarding the

Halachic permissibility of praying in a Synagogue on Shabbat in particular or on any days of the week for that matter, protected by an armed police officer and by our own members who are licensed to carry a concealed weapon, as long as they maintain proficiency with their weapon of choice and follow the Synagogue's Security Guidelines and participate in our own security training rules which will teach us how to proceed in case of health emergency and mainly teaching us community defense training in how to deal with an active shooter.

My dear friends, I can't believe I am saying this, but the fact is that we live in different times and we can't afford to let ourselves be found off guard again. We have to protect and defend our synagogue and its members against anti-Semitic violence of any kind.

Although I would like to believe that we are a welcoming Congregation with our arms wide open, today our security comes first, and if it looks a little less welcoming, so be it.

"Our priority is the security of our members and like in Jewish law (Halachah), our first commandment is first and foremost in protecting lives. Everything else is secondary. And in the world we live in today, we need to focus on saving lives and keeping people safe."

But safety comes at a price. We do not want to be the victims any more. We need to protect ourselves now. Last Thursday, in Israel, at the Holocaust Memorial of Yad VeShem, the People of Israel along with dignitaries from all over the world came in solidarity with the Jewish People in remembering the 75th Anniversary of the liberation of Auschwitz, as they affirmed and promised NEVER AGAIN. We have to follow suit and act upon it. NEVER AGAIN.

Be safer than sorry.

Your Mara D'Atra,

Rabbi Ben-Zion Laxner

February Service Schedule

Friday, February 7

Kabbalat Shabbat 6:00 p.m.
Candle Lighting 5:50 p.m.

Saturday, February 8

Shacharit 9:30 a.m.
Shabbat Ends 6:46 p.m.

Friday, February 14

Kabbalat Shabbat 6:00 p.m.
Candle Lighting 5:56 p.m.

Saturday, February 15

Shacharit 9:30 a.m.
Shabbat Ends 6:52 p.m.

Friday, February 21

Kabbalat Shabbat 6:00 p.m.
Candle Lighting 6:02 p.m.

Saturday, February 22

Shacharit 9:30 a.m.
Shabbat Ends 6:57 p.m.

Friday, February 28

Kabbalat Shabbat 6:00 p.m.
Candle Lighting 6:08 p.m.

Saturday, February 29

Shacharit 9:30 a.m.
Shabbat Ends 7:03 p.m.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

February 1

Jeff Wolf

February 3

Debbie Hersh

February 5

Gloria Gurkoff

February 8

Jim Stuckey

February 9

Simcha Via

February 15

Larry Taub

February 17

Jeff Levin

February 22

Rick Bauer

Florence Hersh

February 25

Justin Lynn

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY

February 19

Benjy & Betty Bauer

Mazel Tov

Felicity Jortner on her Bat

Mitzvah

Joseph Settle



January

Food Sponsors:

*David & Maura Jortner
Rabbi Lanxner
Joseph Settle*

Special Donations:

*Robert & Gayle Monta
Leonard Englander
Jim & Morasha Stuckey
Programs Committee*

Shabbat Donations:

January 4

*David Fay
Javis Howeth
James & Gabrielle
Howle
Joseph Settle
Jim & Morasha Stuckey*

January 11

*Inez Bonneville
David Fay
George & Kathleen
Keller
Joseph Settle
Abbye & Susan Silver
Jim & Morasha Stuckey*

January 25

*Inez Bonneville
Henry Hacker
George & Kathleen
Keller
Joseph Settle
James & Morasha
Stuckey*

Purim – SAVE THE DATE: March 9, 6:00 P.M.



See flyer attached and watch for details in weekly announcements!

In Loving Memory



Ruth Goldwater Evans

Carron Thomson

Freda Jortner

Bernard Jortner

Taube Jacobson Cohen

Naman & Esther Lipinsky

Clarine Brinkley

Dianne & Brent deMerville

M B Farmer

Paul & Paula Farmer

Frances Novy

David Novy

Leon Lebowitz

Florence Hersh

Naman & Esther Lipinsky

Arthur Rubel

Rina Ruttenberg & Danny Holland

HOW TO OBSERVE THE YAHRZEIT

It is traditional to kindle a Yahrzeit Candle in the home on the evening Yahrzeit begins. It should remain lighted until sunset the next day. Possible prayer before lighting a Yahrzeit candle: Eternal God, I/we light this candle in memory of (name) _____, my/our beloved (relationship) _____. The light of the flame rekindles all the warm memories of the moment we shared together, and reassures me /us that a piece of his/her soul dwells in my/our heart(s) forever. May his/her soul be bound up with the bonds of eternal life. Amen. Candles are available at the Gift Shop. Every effort should be made to say Kaddish at congregational services. It is meritorious to perform some Mitzvah or to contribute to the synagogue in commemoration of the deceased.

Kaddish will be read on February 7

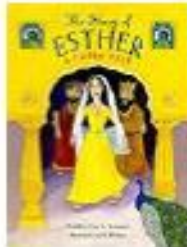
| | |
|-----------|---|
| Shevat 12 | Morris Braunston Albert Shifrin |
| Shevat 13 | Arthur Levy* Phillip H. Robinson Joe Zoblotsky* David Begal* |
| Shevat 14 | Rose Beerman* Mrs. Jake Berkman* Manuel Harris* Esther Wolf* |
| Shevat 15 | Max Harelik* |
| Shevat 16 | Naomi Stein Betty Safan Joe Statman Anna Kroll Nathan Salpeter |
| Shevat 17 | Mrs. Florence Cohen* Mrs. J. Greenspan* Pearl Wolpo Bessie Tannenbaum Harold Kamenetsky |
| Shevat 18 | Sarah Lebowitz* Doris Sprecher Silver* Mrs. M. Cohen* |

Kaddish will be read on February 14

| | |
|-----------|--|
| Shevat 19 | Meyer Hoffman* |
| Shevat 20 | Norman Goldberg* Margaret Hoffman* Louis Kantrovich Fannie Marks* |
| Shevat 21 | Jeanette Levy Lemson Frank Israel* Sam Israel* Jacob D. Aronson* |
| Shevat 22 | Hymie Greenspan Esther Anna Gulman Aaron Archie Hoppenstein* Frances Segal Issie Polonsky* |
| Shevat 23 | Sadie Schaevitz* Naomi Smith* |
| Shevat 24 | Ann Chodorow* Sam Greenberg* Raven Jornitsky* Max Harris* Bernard Stewart |
| Shevat 25 | Zelig Feldt* Ben Koffman Barney Brickman* Bertha Genecov Miller |

Kaddish will be read on February 21

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|--|---|
| Shevat 26 | M. Adams* Bella Levy Mrs. A. Polansky* Joseph Ginsburg |
| Shevat 27 | Sam Harelik* Gertie Kantrovich Dave Knobler Abe Novich* |
| Shevat 28 | Jacob Wolf* Mrs. B. Coopersmith Mrs. I.F. Aronson* Miriam Salpeter Stanley Hersh* |
| Shevat 29 | Fannie Berkman* Esther Anna Gulman |
| Shevat 30 | H. Baker* Bert Gardner* Mrs. B. Levinson* Harmon McNabb, Jr. Sharon Lee Slutsky Moses David Beerman* |
| Adar 1 | William Chernoff Naomi Levy* Tama Settle |
| Adar 2 | Hyman Herzlich |
| <u>Kaddish will be read on February 28</u> | |
| Adar 3 | Ruth Budin |
| Adar 4 | Anne Goodman Deyo* Cecelia Dreyfus William Ruttenberg Sam Wolstein Paul E. Leka |
| Adar 5 | Rebecca Greenberg* Emma Podrizki* Celia Zelen |
| Adar 6 | Morrie Alperin I. Aronson* Harry Siegel* Joseph Wise* |
| Adar 7 | Esther Isaac Aronson Lois Helfer Mrs. A. Ray Lowich* Esther Sigel* |
| Adar 8 | Phillip Reich Marie Rosenberg Adolph Rubel* Joseph Smolensky Chaym D. Silevitch |
| Adar 9 | Jacob Farbstein* Leon Berman* |



PURIM

March 9, 2020, 6:00 PM

We are eagerly looking forward to Celebrating the festive holiday of Purim with you! Please Come dressed up in Costume!

Following the Megillah reading service, we will all gather in the social hall for Pizza, Salad, and HamantasChens, Friendship, and some home-made entertainment.

HERE IS YOUR MOMENT TO SHINE & TO BE A STAR!!!!

Everyone in attendance, is being asked to put on a 4 to 5 minutes (or less, if you wish) **"shtick" presentation.**

It does not need to fit into the theme of the Purim holiday. It can be on just about anything that you wish!

Tell us a funny joke, read a thought-provoking poem, show us your hobby, demonstrate one of your talents, etc, etc.

Miriam Webster's Definition of the Yiddish word **"shtick"** ...

- 1: a usually comic performance or routine
- 2: Or, a display of one's special trait, interest, or activity

GET READY TO BE ENTERTAINED!!

* The Religious School students shall be presenting two fun Jewish songs for you! One will be in Hebrew & the other in English.

* Also, the Rabbi & the Rebbetzin are preparing their own delightful lil' shtick presentation for the Finale, which shall make you smile from ear-to-ear!

February 2020

6 Shevat 5780 - 4 Adar 5780

Sunday

Monday

Tuesday

Wednesday

Thursday

Friday

Saturday

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|---|---|--|--|---|--|---|---|
| | | | | | | | 1 7:34AM/5:45PM §6:30PM Shacharit 9:30 a.m. 6 Shevat Berachos 29 |
| 2 7:33AM/5:46PM MINYAN 10:00 a.m. TALMUD 11:00 a.m. 7 Shevat Berachos 30 | 3 7:32AM/5:47PM 8 Shevat Berachos 31 | 4 7:31AM/5:49PM 9 Shevat Berachos 32 | 5 7:29AM/5:50PM RELIGIOUS SCHOOL 4:15 - 5:45 p.m. 10 Shevat Berachos 33 | 6 7:28AM/5:51PM 11 Shevat Berachos 34 | 7 7:27AM/5:52PM ii5:34PM Kabbalat Shabbat 6:00 p.m. 12 Shevat Berachos 35 | 8 7:26AM/5:54PM §6:39PM Shacharit 9:30 a.m. 13 Shevat Berachos 36 | |
| 9 7:25AM/5:55PM MINYAN 10:00 a.m. TALMUD 11:00 a.m. 14 Shevat Berachos 37 | 10 7:24AM/5:56PM §6:41PM Tu B'Shevat 15 Shevat Berachos 38 | 11 7:23AM/5:57PM 16 Shevat Berachos 39 | 12 7:21AM/5:59PM RELIGIOUS SCHOOL 4:15 - 5:45 p.m. 17 Shevat Berachos 40 | 13 7:20AM/6:00PM 18 Shevat Berachos 41 | 14 7:19AM/6:01PM ii5:43PM Kabbalat Shabbat 6:00 p.m. 19 Shevat Berachos 42 | 15 7:18AM/6:02PM §6:47PM Shacharit 9:30 a.m. 20 Shevat Berachos 43 | |
| 16 7:16AM/6:03PM MINYAN 10:00 a.m. TALMUD 11:00 a.m. 21 Shevat Berachos 44 | 17 7:15AM/6:05PM 22 Shevat Berachos 45 | 18 7:14AM/6:06PM 23 Shevat Berachos 46 | 19 7:12AM/6:07PM RELIGIOUS SCHOOL 4:15 - 5:45 p.m. 24 Shevat Berachos 47 | 20 7:11AM/6:08PM 25 Shevat Berachos 48 | 21 7:09AM/6:09PM ii5:51PM Kabbalat Shabbat 6:00 p.m. 26 Shevat Berachos 49 | 22 7:08AM/6:11PM §6:56PM Shacharit 9:30 a.m. 27 Shevat Berachos 50 | |
| 23 7:07AM/6:12PM MINYAN 10:00 a.m. TALMUD 11:00 a.m. 28 Shevat Berachos 51 | 24 7:05AM/6:13PM 29 Shevat Berachos 52 | 25 7:04AM/6:14PM Rosh Hodesh I 30 Shevat Berachos 53 | 26 7:02AM/6:15PM Rosh Hodesh II RELIGIOUS SCHOOL 4:15 - 5:45 p.m. 1 Adar Berachos 54 | 27 7:01AM/6:16PM 2 Adar Berachos 55 | 28 6:59AM/6:17PM ii5:59PM Kabbalat Shabbat 6:00 p.m. 3 Adar Berachos 56 | 29 6:58AM/6:19PM §7:04PM Shacharit 9:30 a.m. 4 Adar Berachos 57 | |

[iiCandle Lighting, §Observance End, Printed January 30, 2020/4 Shevat 5780 for Canton, Ohio]