

שלשים – הזכרה

*Sheloshim – Hazkara*

ע"ה R' Mendel Farkas

אהרן מנחם בן אלטר אליהו ע"ה



*May 7, 2017*

*Cong. Bais Yitzchok Chevra Thilim*

*Elizabeth, NJ*

**In memory of my dear father, Aharon Menachem ben Alter Eliyahu v' Pesel.**

**The following is from Rav Shlomo Goldstein of Telze Stone, Israel -**

**In parshas Achrei Mos (Vayikra 18:5), we have**

**וּשְׁמַרְתֶּם אֶת חֻקֵּי וְאֵת מִשְׁפָּטֵי אֲשֶׁר יַעֲשֶׂה אִתְּכֶם הָאֱדֹמִי וְחֵי בֵּהֶם אֲנִי ה'.**

**And ye shall therefore keep My statutes, and Mine ordinances, which if a man do, he shall live by them: I am the L-rd.**

**Targum Onkelos translates "וְחֵי בֵּהֶם" ("and live by them") as "וְיֵחִי בְּהוֹן חַיִּי עֲלֵמָא" which I loosely translate as "and he will live in them an eternal life".**

**Rashi concurs with this rendering of Onkelos:**

**וְחֵי בֵּהֶם. לְעוֹלָם הַבָּא, שֶׁאֵין תֵּאֲמֹר: בְּעוֹלָם הַזֶּה, וְהֵלֵךְ סוּפוֹ הוּא מֵת (סְפָרָא):**

**He shall live by them in the world to come, for if you say (that this refers to) this world, does one not eventually die? (Siphra). (Ben Isaiah and Sharfman)**

**Similarly, Yonasan Ben Uziel (Targum Yonasan), as explained by Perush Yonasan.**

**However, the Baal Haturim cites Yoma 82a as saying that "וְחֵי בֵּהֶם" means "to live by them" - the halachic principle that human life takes precedence over mitzvos (in most cases).**

**The Sefas Emes (1887) (ה"ת"רמ"ז), quoting his grandfather, the Chidushei Harim, presents yet another view - that the main part of a person's life should be the pursuit of Torah and mitzvos. The Sefas Emes adds that the Torah gives life in this world and the next. Reshaim (evil people) are only concerned with worldly pleasures, but tzadikim (the righteous), by finding life in Torah and mitzvos, are rewarded in both this world and the world to come.**

**I see my father in all of the above. He lived a life of Torah and mitzvos when it would have been much easier to just go with the flow.**

**In the Hell of Europe under Nazi rule, he maintained his faith even as a slave laborer, in the hope that Shabbos and Yom Tov would once again be possible.**

**In America, he didn't fall prey to the seductions of a materialistic society. He earned his living by providing kosher meat to Jewish families - not an easy business to be in. I still remember how we would hardly see him during the weeks before the holidays, as he scrambled to fill pre-Yom-Tov orders.**

**He provided my sister, Phyllis, and me with a Torah education when it would have been so much easier to send us to public school.**

He made time for Torah - whether going to Rav Pinchas Teitz's daf at the JEC on Shabbos afternoons, or racing across town to Rav Elazar Meir Teitz's daf yomi. And I remember him struggling to get decent reception on an FM radio so he could hear the daf hashvua on WEVD.

Something I am particularly proud of was the beautiful way he davened, especially as the shaliach tzibur on the yomim noraim. I don't remember him doing it at Bais Yitzhak (this was during Rav Lichtman's tenure as chazan), but he did at several other places.

His maftir yona on Yom Kippur (which he did several times at Bais Yitzhak) was particularly moving - it brings tears to my eyes when I think of it.

יהי זכרו ברוך

May his memory be blessed.

Zev Farkas