



כולל רבנים
רבינו צבי אשכנזי

An Initiative of Amsterdam Community Kollel

THIS WEEK IN JEWISH HISTORY

5 Av

- Yahrzeit of Rabbi Yitzchak Luria of Tzfat, the Ari Z"l, 1572.
- Yahrzeit of Rabbi Chaim Ozer Grodzinski, 1940.

6 Av

- Spinoza was excommunicated by the Jewish community of Amsterdam, 1656.
- The British House of Commons voted in favour of the emancipation of the Jews of England, 1833.

7 Av

- Nebuchadnetzar occupied the first Beis Hamikdash, 586BCE.

8 Av

- Yahrzeit of Rabbi Simcha Zissel Ziv, the Alter of Kelm, 1898.

9 Av

- Yirmiyahu HaNavi was born
- Approx. 15,000 adult Jewish males died each year in the Midbar as punishment for the sin of the Meraglim
- The first and second Beis Hamikdash were destroyed.
- The Romans ploughed the site of the Mikdash to establish a colony there, 71CE.
- The City of Betar, fell to the Romans, 135.
- King Edward I of England ordered the expulsion of all Jews, 1290.
- The period of expulsion of the Jews from Spain began, 1492.
- World War I began, 1914.

10 Av

- Columbus set sail for the new world, 1492.

11 Av

- Edict of expulsion of Bohemian Jews was revoked by Empress Maria Theresa, 1748.

NATURAL LIVING

Tisha B'av is over, everyone is in vacation mode, as we prepare for **שבת נחמו**. It's strange, on Thursday we sat on the floor and lamented the suffering of the Jewish nation and our distance from the *Shechinah*. Two days later it's **שבת נחמו** and we console one another as though everything is all right. Has anything changed? Has the suffering ended?

The *Maharal* answers with a most encouraging statement (*Netzach Yisrael* chapter one). There is no greater proof of **גאולה**, redemption, than the **גלות**, exile, itself. He explains that exile is without a doubt unnatural and contrary to the order of life. We look at the countries of the world. Each has its own place, unity within their territories and a form of governance which is fully independent. This is natural as *Chazal* say in *Avos*: **אין לך דבר שאין לו מקום**.

It is glaringly obvious that we, as a nation, are far from this natural state. We are like a fish out of water. Our natural habitat is the Land of Israel. But we are spread amongst the nations, and the State of Israel itself is the most obvious reflection of the reality of *Galus*. A state financially dependent on the United States, governed by parties that cannot agree on the colour of an orange and forced to justify every tiny act to the world on a daily basis. This is called exile.

Our *Nechama* is the knowledge that anything unnatural will eventually return to its natural state. as the *Maharal* continues, we can only reach an understanding of redemption through exile itself.

If we understand how unnatural our current existence is, this will lead us to make the necessary changes. Whether through *Ahavas Yisrael*, caring for others, or recognising that Hashem runs the world and wants us to improve as individuals. This will bring us closer to the true redemption.

As my time here in Amsterdam Kollel comes to a close, I can say how special it has been for me to be part of such a wonderfully close-knit community. Where every Jew of affiliation, feels close and part of one another's lives. This is the type of *Ahavas Yisrael* which will ultimately lead to the coming of *Moshiach* and the final redemption **במהרה בימינו!**