

From The Publisher

Welcome aboard!

The Book of Jonah is no big fish story or empty tail, but a deep, inner odyssey.

Rather than just the same old story, you get it here in current newspaper form, virtual reality as it happens!

May you be inscribed for an inspiring, happy and healthy New Year.

"Your Captain Speaking" Rude Awakening

By Rav Hachovel

It's so easy to curl up in our cozy little corner and forget about the world's problems. But like it or not, we're all in the same boat. We cannot remain oblivious to the dangerous waves and violent storms raging around us.

We each have a mission to speak out against injustice. There is nowhere to hide. We may try to run away from responsibility, but it eventually catches up with us.

Difficult as the task may be, we must try to change and improve the world, wicked as it may seem.

But we cannot continue to be prophets of doom forever. We must grow in our understanding of human nature. Once people show improvement, it is time to stop preaching and condemning, for only G-d can judge changes within the heart.

There's a season for everything under the sun. Let us supplant feelings of anger with pity and compassion for our fellow beings. Let's



intertvine
the micro
with the
macro.
Just as we
must
preach to
others, we
must also
be critical
of our-
selves.

WEATHER REPORT

Marine offshore forecast:

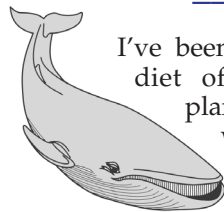
High winds and sudden storms in selected spots along the Eastern Mediterranean, returning to calm.



Nineveh suburbs very hot, lots of sunshine.

Eating Out Seafood's the Best

By Doug Manning



I've been raised on a healthy diet of plentiful kelp and plankton, washed down with lots of water. Big and bulging with plenty of blubber, I'm certainly not undernourished. So why am I complaining?

Eating the same food all the time gets boring, so it's nice to try something new for a change.

I was treated to some surprise landfood yesterday, and it was really an experience. I didn't go manning, the way people go fishing, it just came my way from out of the blue. The landfood just happened to be shipped to my area, so I was in the right place at the right time.

What does landfood taste like? It's hard to describe, but the homosapien specimen has no fins or scales, no flippers at all. It will actually die if submerged too long—like a fish out of water! Man alive, that was a real whopper, but it went down the hatch in a single gulp.

Exotic food is enjoyable while eating, but the problem is how to deal with after dinner effects. I don't mean to bellyache, but it wasn't yummy in the tummy. The landfood gave me feelings of deep regret and anguish. Boy, did I pray for relief!

After carrying around like this for three days and nights, I finally got it out of my system and spit the thing out.

Plankton isn't that exciting, but at least it doesn't mumble and grumble inside.

Man Overboard

SOS: TRAGEDY AT SEA

JAFFA- Terrified passengers fear their ship will sink any moment, as a fugitive confessed and claimed responsibility.

The culprit is identified as Jonah B. Amitai, whose original destination was the city of Nineveh to the east. The fugitive changed course and went AWOL.

Sailing from Jaffa to Tarsus 300 miles north, the ship encountered

severe turbulence on high seas. Desperate attempts by the crew to turn back to shore failed.

Fellow passengers remember Jonah as being highly agitated and nervous while embarking at the port, anxious to leave at any cost.

But once on board, the accused runaway took it easy and relaxed. He slept comfortably as all other passengers rushed to make emergency calls.

Want a quick getaway?



JAFFA CRUISES

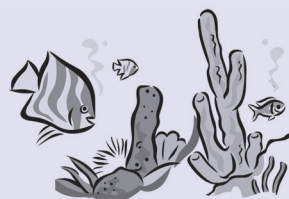
- Leaving Port Authority Rain or Shine
- Below Deck Cozy Sleepers
- Multi-Religious Services
- Special Lottery! You may be the one!
- Historic and exciting! Great Fishing!
- In Depth Seminar and Think Tank

From Deep Down to High Above

By Ben Amitai

I call in my distress, for G-d to answer,
From a watery grave, I cry out...

You cast me into the heart of seas,
Rivers surround me,
Your breakers and waves pass over me.



Although driven from before You,
I will again see your Holy Temple,
Waters encompass me
The great deep whirls around.

Reeds tangle about my head
As I descend to the mountain bases
The earth closes against me.
Yet You lift my life from the pit, O G-d.

Book Review: *The Prize Fish Story*

You've heard about the 'big one that got away' and other tall tales, so let's focus here on a real Fish Story, the moving account of Jonah in the belly of the Whale.

Read at a most auspicious time on the holiest day of the year, "Maftir Yonah" is actually the longest Haftorah, running through all four chapters of Jonah, with concluding verses from Micah.

It recounts the dramatic story of Jonah who tried to escape his responsibility to reach out to the wicked.

Jonah set sail from the port of Jaffa, but a storm thwarted his escape. Identified as the cause of the storm, Jonah was cast overboard, and swallowed by a big fish.

After repenting, Jonah alighted on land, went to Nineveh and called its residents to change their evil ways. The story concludes with the episode of the vine that protected Jonah from the hot sun, teaching sympathy and compas-

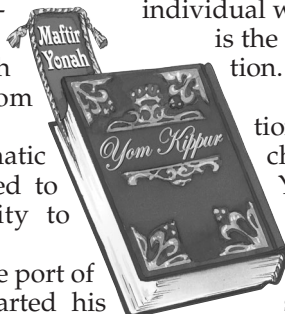
sion for those who repent.

Truly a treasure, Maftir Yonah is in big demand, and is said to endow the reader with riches, success and prosperity. A much sought after commodity, 'Maftir Yonah' ranks high among Synagogue Honors. The lucky individual who gets Maftir Yonah is the envy of the congregation.

Much deliberation is thus invested in choosing the Maftir Yonah awardee. A very distinguished individual is granted this singular honor.

"Getting Maftir Yonah" is a Yiddish idiom (also known as a yidiom) for winning the jackpot. Some synagogues auction Maftir Yonah to the highest bidder, with the proceeds going to charity.

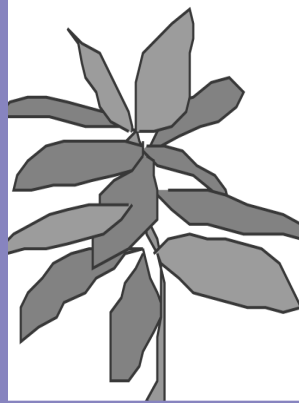
Is it Maftir Yonah that begets wealth, or is it vice versa? Either way, its message is rich and rewarding, and the moral of the story is priceless.



**Exhausted? Burnt out?
Say it with flowers...**

Kikayon

**The plant with a message!
Broad leaves provide
great shade, prevents sunstroke.
Now you see it. Now you don't!**



*Overnight
Delivery,
beyond the
shadow of a
doubt!*

*Available at
Suburban
9 Veb Place*

*Sorry, no
guarantee!*

*Only while
it lasts!*

Plants and You

Dear Horticulturalist,

'Twas only yesterday we spent time in the sun together, my beautiful flower, my shade and comfort.

But where are you now, flower of my life, how I miss you!

Only yesterday, my lovely flower, full of vigor and growth, rose high, thrived and flourished. Now it is only a withered skeleton of its former self.

Without my flower, it's all over.

Dedicated in memory of the flower of my life.

Distraught in Ninveh

Dear Distraught,

There isn't much to do for your plant, but there's much you must do for yourself.

We love and care for plants, but let's not become distraught when they die. We have bigger problems in our world today.

Let your experience help you find compassion for thousands of pitiful people. Rather than flowery prose, such concern would be a deserving memory to your plant.

Welcome to Jonah's

High Holiday Hotline...

"Welcome to the High Holiday Hot Line. Your call is very important.

Press **# 1 0** and **R**

for the ten days of repentance between Rosh Hashana and Yom Kippur when G-d is closest, so this is not a long distance call.

You will hear one long note, 3 short beeps, 9 shorter beeps, followed by a long final note. Shofar, so good!

For Ashkenazic pronunciation, bevakosho press A. For Sephardic, bevakashah press S. Use any language, as long as it comes from the heart. Lip service is unacceptable.

If you feel you reached us in error, great, for 'to err is human, to forgive Divine.'

This call is being monitored by 'The Eye that sees, the Ear that hears, and all your deeds are recorded.'

To review your annual balance: For Mitzvot:

Press **# 6 1 3**

For positive commandments:

Press **# 2 4 8**

For negative commandments:

Press **# 3 6 5**

For Rabbinic laws use extension 7.

In case of bad connection,

Press **1** to Repent

2 to Pray

3 to give Charity

to remove interfering static.

Press **0** to delete misdeeds.

Are you sure you want to delete misdeeds at this time? Only misdeeds between man and G-d can be deleted. If you sinned against a person, contact them first, then call back after they forgive.



If you transgressed and don't know where to begin, consult Yom Kippur's alphabetical *Al Chet* directory. Press pound right hand at each listing. Thanks to the Repentance Advantage Program, your debits turn into credits.

Press **# 1 8**

to donate Chai to charity, that will be credited directly to your Mitzvah account.

May you be inscribed for a

**G O O D
N E W
Y E A R**

**Repentance calls for
patience and persistence.
If you do not get through
the first time, try again...
Do not hang up!**