



The Greater Washington Community Kollel

# SHABBOS DELIGHTS

## TORAH MINUTE

**IT IS AN HONOR TO PRESENT THIS WEEK'S TORAH MINUTE FROM OUR ARCHIVES. THE FOLLOWING WAS PENNED BY OUR FOUNDER, RABBI KALMAN WINTER ZT"L, IN 2011**

In chapter 23, verse 2 of this week's Torah reading, Mishpatim, we learn "after the majority you shall decide." Thus, in Jewish law, matters brought before the court were decided by majority rule. One of the greatest sages, Rabbi Yehonasan Eybeschitz, was asked by a gentile theologian the following question. The Torah says to follow the majority. Given that the Jewish nation is a minority and the majority has a different belief and faith, why do the Jews not accept the prevailing faith of the majority? Rabbi Eybeschitz answered that the principle of following the majority applies only when the matter is in doubt. In the face of certainty, a matter is not subject to majority rule. For example: if there are nine kosher butcher stores and one non-kosher store in a city and a box of meat is found in the street, the meat is ruled to be kosher. However, if on the box the label reads Perdue, would anyone imagine to deem it kosher? Similarly, we have no question as to our faith and belief. Our Torah, transmitted faithfully from parent to child for over 3300 years, is not subject to majority rule. How fortunate we are to be that additional link in the golden chain from Sinai!

*Shabbat Shalom.*

*Rabbi Kalman Winter*

## TABLE TALK

### POINT TO PONDER

*If she (the Jewish maidservant) is displeasing in the eyes of her master, who should have designated her for himself, he shall assist in her pidyon/redemption... (21:8)*

*If he (the Jewish slave) has not been geulah/redeemed by these means... (Behar 25:54)*

Why does the Torah refer to the redemption of the maidservant as pidyon, while the redemption of the slave is called geulah?

### PARSHA RIDDLE

What should one learn if he wants to become wise? Please see next week's issue for the answer.

**Last week's riddle:** For which mitzvos does the Torah tell us the reward that one will receive in this world for their fulfillment?

Answer: The Torah tells us that for the performance of kibud av v'aim (respecting parents) and for shiluach hakain (sending away the mother bird) one is rewarded with longevity in the world.

## TIMELESS WISDOM

*People of holiness shall you be to me, you shall not eat the flesh of an animal that was torn in the field... (22:30)*

Once, the King of Spain asked his Jewish advisor, Rav Don Yitzchok Abarbenel, to eat with him. The Abarbenel told the King, "I would be more than happy to eat with the king, but it would have to be in my house because I cannot eat the food from the King's palace." The King replied, "We will cook kosher meat for you." The Abarbenel answered, "If it is cooked in your pots, it is no good." Whereupon the King told the Abarbenel that he could bring from his own home to the palace. The Abarbenel informed the King that he would need to bring along someone else in order to watch the food to make sure it does not get swapped with the King's food, as required by halacha (Chulin 95a). The King agreed, but decided to test the Abarbenel. The King had made for their meal a one legged swiveling table and told his kitchen staff to make for him the identical food that the Abarbenel would bring.

The day came and the Abarbenel came with his food and mashgiach. As the King and the Abarbenel were talking, the Abarbenel did not take his eyes off his food, to ensure it did not assume the status of "meat that has been out of sight." The King suddenly motioned outside, to a very unique bird. The Abarbenel looked outside, and immediately the King swiveled the table, so that now his non-kosher food was in front of the Abarbenel, and the Abarbenel's food was in front of the King. Realizing that he had taken his eyes off of his food, the Abarbenel did not eat his food. Noticing this, the King asked him, "Why don't you eat?" The Abarbenel explained the issue to the King.

The King was amazed at the all-encompassing halachos of the Torah, and the Abarbenel's commitment to them, which prevented him from sinning.

## KIDS KORNER

### Who Am I?

#### #1 WHO AM I?

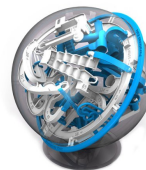
1. I work for you
2. I am your master
3. I came for theft
4. If I stay too long I may become holey

#### #2 WHO AM I?

1. Angelic secret
2. My utterance saved the world
3. Impulsive?
4. Now I was forced

Please see next week's issue for the answers

All children  
13 and under  
who answer a  
"Who Am I?"  
correctly will  
be entered  
into a raffle to  
*Win a*  
*Perplexus*  
*Epic!*



Next Raffle  
Drawing  
March 31<sup>st</sup>!

#### Last Issue's Answers

- #1 Matan Torah:** (See what is heard, Hear what is seen, Under the mountain, Death and Reviving).  
**#2 Yisro:** I was a priest, My name is extra, I advised Pharaoh, I advised Moshe).

**Congratulations to  
Yehuda Green  
and to all those who answered  
correctly this week!**

Visit <http://www.gwckollel.org> to submit your answers. Answer as many as you can because each correct answer will entitle you to another raffle ticket and increase your chances of winning.

## KOLLEL BULLETIN BOARD

*Greater Washington Community Kollel in conjunction with Young Israel Shomrai Emunah invite men and women to a Jewish Ethics Lecture Series presentation:*

*"Is It Ever A Bad Idea To Emulate G-d?*

*Exploring Jewish Perspectives on Genetic Engineering"*

*by Rabbi Yitzi Weiner, Scholar-in-Residence, Rosh Kollel of the Community Kollel of Sharon Massachusetts, prolific author and dynamic lecturer. Sunday, February 15, 9:30 am at Young Israel Shomrai Emunah 1132 Arcola Avenue, Silver Spring.*