



The Greater Washington Community Kollel

SHABBOS DELIGHTS

TORAH MINUTE

IN MEMORY OF RABBI KALMAN WINTER ZT" L

Seek G-d when He is found, call to Him when He is near. (Yeshaya, 95:6) "These are the days between Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur." (Talmud Yevamos 49b)

Rosh Hashanah begins the Ten Days of Repentance that culminate with Yom Kippur, the Day of Atonement. The Jewish New year is a time of self-evaluation and introspection. Additionally, Rosh Hashanah is the Day of Judgment on which all mankind come before G-d. It is on this day that all of our needs and successes for the coming year are set. For example, the quality of our health, the degree of success we achieve, and the hoped for realization of our dreams and aspirations are all determined during the Day of Judgment.

Given that Yom Kippur is the day we ask forgiveness while we stand in judgment on Rosh Hashanah, it is extremely perplexing why Rosh Hashanah precedes Yom Kippur. It would seemingly be more logical to first utilize Yom Kippur, that great day of compassion and forgiveness, and only then come before G-d in judgment. Why is it reversed?

To answer this fundamental question we must first define the essence of Rosh Hashanah. It is not simply a court date with G-d, but rather it is an awe-inspiring day dedicated to realizing who we truly are, what our mission is, and how deeply connected we are to G-d. On Rosh Hashanah we not only acknowledge G-d's majesty and grandeur, but His personal involvement in our daily lives and all that transpires. We take further stock of our national legacy and the humbling responsibility placed upon us by the fact that G-d has chosen us to be His sublime and noble people. On the Day of Judgment we affirmatively express our acceptance of this special heritage and proclaim our fealty to our King and Father in Heaven.

It is only now, with this realization and our renewed commitment, that we can adequately begin the process of Teshuva - finding our way home. And it is through this clarity of purpose and mission that we are able to merit blessing and goodness for ourselves and our families.

Let us make sure to take advantage of this special day to realize who we are, the depth and breadth of our special mission, and to firmly and lovingly forge a relationship with our Father, our King.

With wishes for a Sweet New Year!

Rabbi Menachem Winter

TABLE TALK

Points to Ponder

Is it to Hashem that you do this, vile and unwise people? (32:6)

The Hebrew word for vile is “novol.” Targum Onkelos comments “Novol – people who received the Torah, unwise people – who did not learn from it.”

How does novol suggest receiving the Torah? The Torah is purely good and positive; how could it be associated with the word “novol,” which implies something evil and wicked?

Parsha Riddle

When Rosh Hashanah is on Shabbos we do not blow shofar, for we are concerned that one may carry it in the public thoroughfare. (Rosh Hashanah 29b)

Which other three mitzvos are not performed on Shabbos for the same concern? *Please see next week's issue for the answer.*

Last week's riddle:

You are standing today, before Hashem, your G-d... (29:9)

Those who speak untruths will not merit being in Hashem's presence (Sotah 42a).

Where is there a hint to that in this posuk?

Answer: The word “Atem” / you, can be rearranged to spell Emes – truth. Only those who speak the truth can stand before Hashem.

TIMELESS WISDOM

A person's livelihood is set from Rosh Hashanah to Rosh Hashanah (Beitza 16a).

Two goldsmiths, Naftoli and Yaakov, lived in the city of Rav Yechiel M'Paris, one of the earlier commentaries on the Talmud (and one of the Baalei Tosfos). On Rosh Hashanah they asked Hashem that He should reveal to them how much they would earn that year. Their request was fulfilled, and that night they had a dream revealing their livelihood for the year. Yaakov was to earn two hundred gold coins, and Naftoli was to earn one hundred and fifty gold coins. When they arrived in synagogue the next morning they related their dreams to Rav Yechiel. He instructed them to write down their earnings throughout the year and they would thereby be able to determine the veracity of their dreams.

As the year progressed, Yaakov and Naftoli made an investment together. When they were to divide the profits they disagreed if their partnership was a 50/50 partnership or one-third / two-third partnership. Without witnesses to the deal or a contract to document the agreement, Rav Yechiel advised Yaakov to take an oath. Unprepared to do so, Yaakov agreed to receive only one-third of the profits, a loss of eleven gold coins.

On the morning before Rosh Hashanah they came to Rav Yechiel with their calculations for the year. Yaakov had only profited one hundred and eighty nine gold coins, and Naftoli had profited one hundred and sixty one gold coins. Rav Yechiel stated, “It seems that Naftoli was incorrect in taking more than half of the investment you discussed with me earlier in the year. Naftoli, you should return the eleven gold coins to Yaakov.” Naftoli rejected the idea. Citing the Talmud in Gittin (52a) he argued, “We don't rule based on dreams, and the dream should not affect how we divide our investment.”

They both returned to their stores. Yaakov was very busy all day and by the time he finished working he had profited another eleven coins. Naftoli, on the other hand, had no business the entire day. On his way home, he was not watching where he was walking and he tripped on a display of glassware, falling down and breaking all the glass. The storeowner called an evaluator who valued the damages at eleven gold coins.

Our sustenance throughout the year is decided on Rosh Hashanah and is controlled by Hashem, not us.

KIDS KORNER

Who Am I?

#1 WHO AM I?

1. Sometimes I am a wall
2. Sometimes I am two towers
3. I could be your sister
4. I will be male after Moshiach

#2 WHO AM I?

1. I am of the year
2. Not the tail
3. I am on the shoulders
4. I am not ahead but a ...

Last Week's Answers

1. Hashem will remove the orlah of our hearts.
2. Torah or Teshuva

Please see next week's issue for the answers to this week's questions.

All children 13 and under who answer a “Who Am I?” correctly will be entered into a raffle to

Win a super prize

Please visit www.gwckollel.org to submit your answers.

The drawing will be held Sept. 30th.

Answer as many as you can because each correct answer will entitle you to another raffle ticket and increase your chance of winning!

KOLLEL BULLETIN BOARD

The Greater Washington Community Kollel wishes all of its friends, supporters, and the entire community a happy, healthy, and sweet New Year!