



The Greater Washington Community Kollel

SHABBOS DELIGHTS

TORAH MINUTE

IN MEMORY OF RABBI KALMAN WINTER ZT" L

"And you shall take for yourselves on the first day the fruit of the tree of beauty (Esrog), leaves of palm branches (Lulav) and myrtle branches (Hadas) and willows of the brook (Arava), and rejoice before Hashem your G-d for seven days" (Vayikra 23:40).

The Rambam states that although there is a Mitzvah to be joyous on every Festival, there is an extra measure of joy and happiness on Sukkos (Laws of Lulav 8:12). Indeed, the Talmud in Tractate Sukkos describes in great detail the transcendental joy and celebration that took place in the Temple on Sukkos.

What is it about Sukkos that engenders such happiness and induces such celebration?

The secret to this Holiday's unique character can be found in the two prominent Mitzvos of Sukkos - the Mitzvah to bind and take the Four Species and the Mitzvah to dwell in Sukkah huts. Regarding the Mitzvah of the Four Species, the Medrash (Vayikra Rabba) shares with us the great symbolism and power of this Mitzvah. Each one of the Four Species represents a different segment of the Jewish people in relation to their level of spiritual attainment – someone with (a) both Torah learning and good deeds; (b) good deeds, but lacking Torah learning; (c) Torah learning, but lacking good deeds; and (d) neither good deeds nor Torah learning. G-d in His profound love for all of His children wishes to bestow His bounty and countenance even on the unworthy. He therefore commands that all the segments be bound together in a unifying bouquet, which allows the undeserving to merit, through the truly righteous, G-d's blessing.

The Mitzvah to dwell in Sukkah huts focuses more on our attitude towards our transient existence. A chief theme discussed by the commentators is that by leaving the comfort of our furnished homes to live in sparse and flimsy Sukkah huts we are able to divest ourselves of our physical and material inclinations. This divestiture of the corporeal allows us to realize and strengthen our spiritual element. Rabbi Shmuel Rozovsky comments that it is this very muting of the physical, and nurturing of the spiritual, that promotes and fosters the unity of the Four Species. It is our acquisitive and material nature that pulls us in disparate and diverse directions. Our spiritual character, on the other hand, binds us in common purpose and mission, allowing us to unite together as one.

Rabbi Rozovsky concludes that it is these two Mitzvos that create the potent power of unity and charge the Festival with such great joy. Only when we are united, standing together before G-d, can true gladness be attained.

Wishing you a wonderful and joyous Sukkos!

Rabbi Menachem Winter

TABLE TALK

Point to Ponder

Hashem had not sent rain upon the earth, and there was no man to work the soil (2:5).

“Why didn’t Hashem send rain? Because there was no man to recognize the benefit of the rain. Once man was created and recognized its benefit, he prayed for it” (Rashi). On the other hand, the Talmud states, “days that rain descend are difficult days for the world. If the world would not need the rain, the chachamim would have davened for rain to cease forever” (Bava Metzia 85a).

Given the fact that Hashem had been irrigating the land in other ways, what benefit did Adam see in rain, *per se*, that he felt the need to pray for it? Why couldn’t he have left things the way they were previously?

Parsha Riddle

Which mitzvos does a person perform with his or her own body?

Please see next week’s issue for the answer.

Last week’s riddle:

What connection is there between Shavuos and Yom Kippur?

Answer: On Shavuos we accepted the Torah, and on Yom Kippur we received the second Luchos.

TIMELESS WISDOM

You shall take for yourselves on the first day the fruit of a citron tree... (Emor 23:40)

A beautiful esrog was brought to the great Chassidic Rabbi, the Bobover Rebbe, Rav Shlomo Halberstam zt”l. The esrog’s bumps were aligned in perfect formation, with a “gartel” around the middle. The esrog perfectly narrowed towards the top, and was crowned by the pitum. There were no markings, and the yellow coloring was stunning. All were awed at the find.

Excitedly, the Rebbe’s followers wrapped the esrog in flax and eagerly awaited the first day of Sukkos when the Rebbe would make a bracha on it. Yom Tov arrived and the Chassidim followed the Rebbe into the sukkah to watch as he recited the bracha and waived the esrog and lulav in the holy manner for which he was famous. To their shock, the Rebbe left the beautiful esrog on the desk in his study and made the bracha on a lower grade esrog. When all the followers returned with the Rebbe to his home, it was evident that someone had been handling the exquisite looking esrog. They further noticed that the pitum had been detached from the esrog all along and a tiny, barely detectable needle was stuck into the pitum to hold it in place.

The Chassidim commented to the Rebbe that they were amazed at the Rebbe’s holiness. Obviously, he had Divine Inspiration to know that the esrog had not been kosher. The Rebbe shook his head and explained that it was no divine inspiration. “We say ‘Torahs Hashem Temima / the Torah of Hashem is perfectly complete.’ Only Torah is perfectly complete. An esrog cannot be perfectly complete. When I saw that there was no flaw in the esrog, I realized something must be wrong with it inside. For that reason I did not use it.”

KIDS KORNER

Who Am I?

#1 WHO AM I?

1. I am for your heart
2. I am for your lips
3. I am for your spine
4. I am for your eyes

#2 WHO AM I?

1. Earthly produce
2. I must be detached
3. Mostly shady business
4. I must be made

Last Week’s Answers

#1 Ten (I am for Minyan, confession, Commandments, and fingers)

#2 Boruch Shem (I am for Shema and the Shem Hamiforosh; I was on the death-bed; Angelic secret)

Congratulations to:

Aharon Feldman

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

Fall Semester at the Greater Washington Community Kollel resumes Sunday, October 6th. Take advantage of the many opportunities and exciting classes and programs to find something that meets *your* needs and interests! For more information, visit us at gwckollel.org or email us at info@gwckollel.org.