



The Greater Washington Community Kollel

SHABBOS DELIGHTS

TORAH MINUTE

IN MEMORY OF RABBI KALMAN WINTER ZT" L

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 November 2010.

This week's Torah portion of Vayitzei begins with the narrative of Yaakov leaving his family home in Beer-Sheva. The Torah records in chapter 28, verse 10: "Yaakov departed from Beer-Sheva and went towards Haran." This follows last week's Torah reading describing the angst of Rivka, Jacob's mother, upon hearing that her eldest son, Eisav, intended to kill Yaakov for usurping his blessing. Consequently, Rivka urges her husband, Yitzchak, to send Yaakov forth to seek a mate, never divulging to Yitzchak her deepest fears and true motive for sending Yaakov from home.

In this week's Haftorah (supplemental reading from the Book of Hosea), however, the prophet records more accurately that Yaakov did not simply depart from his home, but rather he fled. The question is self-evident. Did he depart or did he flee with a compelling urgency? The answer is... both narratives are true. To the casual observer, one would surely conclude that Yaakov fled from home, fearing for his life. Nevertheless, on a deeper level, Yaakov understood and believed that the course of events that dictated that he leave home was a directive and the beginning of a new chapter in his life. Secure in the knowledge that all that transpired was from Above, Yaakov does not assimilate this in his mind as "fleeing from home," but rather as departing to confront new challenges in a different direction.

One of the great Torah leaders of the generation of the Holocaust, Rabbi Eliyahu Meir Bloch, upon coming to our shores, declared, "I am not a refugee fleeing from Europe; instead, I am an emissary from Above to build Torah in America." In all of life's challenges and difficulties, we are to understand that we are never to flee; rather we should go forth with faith and resolve that all comes from Above.

Shabbat Shalom,
Rabbi Kalman Winter

TABLE TALK

POINT TO PONDER

And then she (Leah) had a daughter, and she called her Dinah (30:21).

Leah passed judgment on herself, saying "Yaakov is destined to have twelve sons. I have had six, and each of the handmaids have had two. If I have another son there will only be one left for Rachel to give birth to, leaving her at a lower level than the maids." In order to save her sister, Leah davened that her child should be a girl, and a miracle occurred and the fetus changed from a male to a female (Rashi).

If a woman is pregnant, and her husband says, "It should be the will of Hashem that this child should be a male," the prayer is in vain. Rav Yosef questioned this, because we find that Leah was able to change the status of her fetus. The Gemara answers that one cannot bring proofs from miracles (Berachos 60a).

We know the generally accepted principle that we are not supposed to pray for a miracle, and the Gemara above calls the changing of the fetus a miracle. **How could Leah have prayed for such a miracle?**

PARSHA RIDDLE

Which posuk in the parsha is said when one travels?

Please see next week's issue for the answer.

Last issue's riddle:

Which unintentional curse was said in [last week's] parsha but nevertheless fulfilled?

Answer: Rivka said, "Why should you both (Yaakov and Eisav) die on one day" and Yaakov and Eisav died on the same day.

TIMELESS WISDOM

Yaakov told Rachel that he was her father's relative... (29:12)

If he will try to cheat me, I will be his brother in deceit... (Rashi)

Yaakov was a wholesome man... (Toldos 25:27)

A certain individual, who was extraordinary in his righteousness, lived near the famed Chozeh of Lublin. This individual quite literally gave away everything he owned, including his shoes. The Chozeh approached him one day and reprimanded him, saying "The Gemara warns us that a person should not give away more than a fifth of his possessions. You should not give away so much." The man replied, "The Gemara is only referring to people who are concerned for their existence tomorrow. However, I follow Hashem and as the posuk dictates (Shoftim 18:13) 'You should be wholehearted with Hashem, your G-d.' Rashi explains this to mean that one should not worry about the future. I don't either worry about the future, so I give everything away."

The Chozeh continued to reproach him, arguing that the degree to which he was taking the lesson was inappropriate. The man finally argued, "But wasn't Yaakov praised for being wholehearted?" The Chozeh answered and explained the difference. "When discussing Yaakov and his wholeheartedness, the Torah adds the word "Ish" (man). The Torah does so to demonstrate that Yaakov was in control of his giving nature. Yaakov did not allow himself to be so wholehearted that everyone took advantage of him. A person needs a balance. Being a giving and wholehearted person is desirable, but one must understand when that wholeheartedness has gone too far."

KIDS KORNER

WHO AM I?

#1 WHO AM I?

1. I left.
2. I went.
3. I dreamt.
4. I arrived.

#2 WHO AM I?

1. We were many.
2. We argued.
3. We became one.
4. Yaakov made me into a matzeiva.

LAST ISSUE'S ANSWERS

#1 Red/Edom (Eisav was...; Eisav wanted...; Eisav was called...; don't confused me with read.)

#2 Aikev/Heel (Read me in the summer; I could be since; Og's weakness; to a dog I mean stop.)

CONGRATULATIONS TO:

Yehuda Arzouan

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



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

The next raffle will be November 26th!

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

SAVE THE DATE!

The Kollel Chanukah Mesibah

will be Tuesday, December 3rd, at 7:00 PM.

Bring the whole family for a night of fun, celebration, and inspiration! There will be music, dancing, and hot Chanukah refreshments.

Come to Rabbi Menachem Winter's Advanced Talmud class!

Learn Gemara in-depth in an interactive setting.

The class meets as part of the Kollel's Potomac Programming, Sunday Nights from 8:15 - 9:15 followed by Maariv, at Young Israel Ezras Israel Potomac.