



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 presented by our founder, Rabbi Kalman Winter ZT"L, Chanukah 5771.

Perhaps the most well-known question in all of halachic literature is the Beis Yosef's question about the Chanukah lighting. The Jewish people, after finally vanquishing the Greeks, turned their attention to the Temple which had been in the hands of their enemy. Desperate to resume the service of lighting the menorah, they searched for a cruse of oil, sealed and marked for its purity. After much searching, one cruse was indeed found, but no more were located. Overjoyed, they lit the menorah; however, their concern remained. It would take eight days to manufacture new oil, but the cruse would only last one day. What would they do tomorrow? And the next day?

Their concern was substituted with joy and gratitude as the miracle of Chanukah unfolded. That small cruse of oil continued to burn for eight days, allowing for the processing of new oil. In commemoration, the leaders of the generation established the holiday of Chanukah to eternalize the miracle. But why, wonders the Beis Yosef, is Chanukah celebrated for eight days when apparently the miracle was only for seven days, given that the oil was sufficient to burn for one day in any event?

Many wonderful and insightful answers are given to this famous question. I would like to share with you an answer from the Alter of Kelm. When we observe the world around us, its beauty and luster, its power and magnificence, its intricacy and design, we should in truth see the omnipotent hand of G-d. However, because of the regularity of the world that we live in, with its seeming predictability, we cease to see G-d's hand in a beautiful sunset and no longer hear G-d's calling in the melodious singing of the songbird. We ascribe the world around us to "nature" and look no deeper.

When a miracle occurs or an unaccountable phenomenon transpires, we then see G-d's hand and mastery. We acknowledge that it is indeed G-d that guides us and sustains us. Through this miracle, says the Alter, we are now able to extrapolate and see G-d in all of nature that surrounds us. We realize that the everyday wonders of the human body, the expanse of the universe, and the mysteries of the sea, can only be formed and fashioned by G-d himself. Indeed, this is the lesson of miracles.

This, then, is an answer to our question. When a cruse of oil, which by the laws of nature should only burn one day, instead burns for eight days, we are shown that all that transpires, whether it be an everyday occurrence or a once-in-history event, is but the will of G-d. It is this miracle, the miracle of "nature," now recognized as G-d's will, that we celebrate with the eighth candle.

This Chanukah may the light of the candles illuminate our world, allowing us to see G-d manifest all around us, guiding us, protecting us, and embracing us.

Shabbat Shalom,
Rabbi Kalman Winter

TABLE TALK

POINT TO PONDER

And he (Yaakov) said to him (Yosef), "Go now, look into the welfare of your brothers and the welfare of the flock, and bring me back word." So he sent him... and he arrived in Shechem... So Yosef went after his brothers and found them in Dosan (37:14 - 17).

He came to Shechem, a place prone for misfortune. There Dina was taken, there Yosef was sold and there the Davidic dynasty was divided (Tanchuma 2).

The midrash references Shechem as a place of misfortune, yet Yosef did not find his brothers in Shechem. Rather, he only found them in Dosan and it was from Dosan that he was sold. Why does the midrash connect his sale to Shechem?

PARSHA RIDDLE

Which two people acted inappropriately because of prophetic visions about their future which they misinterpreted?

Please see next week's issue for the answer.

Last issue's riddle:

Which Tanna is referenced in the parsha?

Answer: When Yaakov said "Maybe I will kill Acheirim," it refers to Rabbi Meir who is called Acheirim.

TIMELESS WISDOM

So now, come and let us kill him (Yosef) ... we will see what will become of his dreams (37:20).

The brothers said, "Let us kill him." Hashem responded, "We will see what will become of his dreams" (Rashi).

There was a wine merchant in Rav Shaul M'keikatz's town. He was extremely poor and could not even purchase food for Shabbos. His old mother would pray for him, asking Hashem to allow her son to win the lottery or find a treasure. As the week was coming to an end, and his desperate situation had not improved, the merchant was overjoyed when someone was willing to buy some of his low-grade wine. The merchant and his family were happy that now they could buy a little food for shabbos. Unfortunately, after only a few minutes had passed, the buyer returned demanding a refund due to the poor quality of the wine. With no option, the merchant returned the money and was left in the same position in which he had been all week.

Suddenly, a wealthy person entered the store, asking if the merchant had any wine to sell. Given his recent experience, the merchant responded, "Please taste my wine and tell me if it is good." The person tasted the wine and enthusiastically exclaimed, "This is superb wine! How many barrels of this wine to you have? I am making a large feast and I need a large supply of wine." The merchant sold out his supply and was not only able to purchase food for Shabbos, but he was also able to advance his business as well. His mother told him, "I gave Hashem many ideas of how to alleviate your suffering, but I never thought of this idea."

We do not need to give Hashem ideas. Hashem has His own plan.

KIDS KORNER

WHO AM I?

#1 WHO AM I?

1. I had dreams.
2. I explained dreams.
3. My downfall was dreams.
4. I ruled on account of dreams.

#2 WHO AM I?

1. I married brothers.
2. I married their father.
3. I pretended not to be married.
4. Moshiach comes from me.

LAST ISSUE'S ANSWERS

#1 Teiva (Noach, Sarah, and Dinah were in me; the Sefer Torah is kept in me.)

#2 A neck that turned into stone/marble (I was for Moshe & Yaakov; more than a stiff neck; I am not a candy but I was a life saver)

CONGRATULATIONS TO:

Tzipora Miller

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

Mark Your Calendar!

The next Girls Night Out will take place on December 7th, Motzai Shabbos Parshas Vayigash. Bring your friends for a lively discussion with Mrs. Zakem and Mrs. Glassberg, as well as good food, and a great time!

Come and join Money Matters, a Choshen Mishpat Kollel under the guidance of Rabbi Yitzhak Grossman. Come every night or two nights a week, Monday - Thursday from 8:45 - 9:45 PM at the Kollel.