



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 2010.*

This week, we start reading Shemos/Exodus, the second of the five books of the Torah. As the narrative begins, the Jewish people proliferate in number and strength in the land of Egypt. Pharaoh, fearing their emergence and development, enslaves his Jewish citizenry. The many years of servitude do not diminish their national aspirations to live as a free nation, the children of one living G-d. The period of redemption arrives and Moshe beckons Pharaoh to let his people go. Pharaoh responds and punishes the Jews ever more severely. In Chapter 5 Verses 4-8, Pharaoh commands that all straw and raw material necessary for making the bricks be denied to the Jews. He decrees that they should scour the countryside to secure their own materials and their required number of bricks to be prepared should not be decreased.

Overwhelmed by the severe workload, the Jews were weary. Rabbi Moshe Chaim Luzzato, the author of the Mesilas Yesharim, comments that Pharaoh was quite calculating. His intention was not to break the Jews, but rather to occupy their hearts and minds to such an extent that there should remain no time, breath, or opportunity to think and plan for freedom. This, he writes, is the tool and design of the yetzer hara, the counterforce to good in each of us.

We go through life externally free, but internally enslaved. We are preoccupied with work, household chores, social engagements, material pursuits, blackberries and cell phones. Precious little time is left for thought and contemplation. What is life's ultimate purpose? What does G-d want and seek from each of us? Scant consideration is given and devoted to the most important questions and issues. Many years ago, there was an ad for funding education. It was titled, "A mind is a terrible thing to waste." Likewise, we say, "A mind is a terrible thing to preoccupy."

Shabbat Shalom,  
**Rabbi Kalman Winter**

## TABLE TALK

### POINT TO PONDER

**“Vayehi” / It happened in those days that Moshe grew up and went to his brethren... (2:11)**

*The word “Vayehi” connotes a misfortune (Megilla 10b).*

What tragedy occurred that compelled the Torah to introduce this parsha with the word “Vayehi”?

### PARSHA RIDDLE

**“Shall I go summon a Jewish wet nurse?” (2:7)**

*The baby refused to nurse from a non-Jewish woman, because Hashem said, “Shall the mouth that will converse with the Divine Presence drink impure milk?” (Rashi)*

What halacha is derived from this?

Please see next week’s issue for the answer.

**Last issue’s riddle:**

**The scepter shall not pass from Yehuda... (49:10)**

**When in Jewish history was this commandment transgressed?**

**Answer:** When the Chashmonaim (from shevet Levi) took the rule away from shevet Yehuda.

## TIMELESS WISDOM

**She saw the basket among the reeds... and she took it (2:5).**

The Chida was visiting France, and he was standing on the edge of the Seine River. Suddenly, he heard a commotion. A child had fallen into the river and was being carried away by the strong current. The Chida saw that the child was starting to drown, and he noticed that the current was carrying the child towards him. As the child came near, the Chida valiantly jumped into the river and saved the child.

When he emerged with the child, he was brought to the mother of the child. He approached her and saw that she was the Queen of France and that this was her son, the prince. She thanked him and stated, “I will give you as much money as you want. How much should I give you?” The Chida responded, “There is something more valuable than money (Tehillim 119:72). I know that locked in the private libraries of the palace are many original manuscripts of great Rabbis. Please let me in so I may learn them.”

## KIDS KORNER

### WHO AM I?

#### #1 WHO AM I ?

1. I saved the savior.
2. I am a god of Egypt.
3. Moses wouldn’t strike me.
4. Sons were thrown to me.

#### #2 WHO AM I ?

1. I was a sign.
2. I am for Lashon Harah.
3. I could remind you of snow.
4. I could get you locked up.

#### LAST ISSUE’S ANSWERS

**#1 Hamaloch Hagoel** (I am said at night and was said to grandchildren; some sing me; I am angelic)

**#2 Reuvein** (I gave the birthright to Yosef, made Yehuda King, and caused Levi to work in the Bais Hamikdosh; I am the personification of repentance.)

#### CONGRATULATIONS TO:

**Liam Ratner**

*To see the complete list of those who answered correctly, visit the Kollel website.*

*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  
\$50 LEGO  
GIFT CARD!*

Please visit [www.gwckollel.org](http://www.gwckollel.org) to submit your answers.

**The next raffle will be January 21<sup>st</sup>**

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

**Join the Young Men’s Programming at the Kollel  
for learning, snacks, and prizes!**

**Mondays 7:45 – 8:30 PM**

**Mishna Enrichment with Rabbi Brotsky  
For 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> grade boys.**

**Thursdays 8:15 – 9:00 PM**

**Halacha Conundrums with Rabbi Zakem  
for 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade boys.**