



# 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's Torah reading is Parshas Terumah. It features the first synagogue building campaign. The Jewish nation was asked to contribute gold, silver, copper, precious stones, wool, craftsmanship, etc. to construct the "Mishkan," the sanctuary. It would be the chosen place where the "Shechinah," G-d's spirit, would reside. The Hebrew roots of the word Mishkan, sanctuary, and Shechinah are one.

The word "Mishkan" has an alternate meaning- "mashkon," security. G-d held his sanctuary and subsequent temple as a security for our observance and fidelity to Torah. Failure to fulfill our national religious destiny would result in the forfeiture of our Temple and His presence therein. Two times in our long history we have had to endure our Temple being destroyed and dispersal into exile.

However, lest we feel bereft and estranged from G-d and His sanctuary, says the verse, Chapter 25, verse 8, "And make for me a sanctuary that I will dwell in their midst." The text reads, "in their midst" in the plural, rather than "in its midst," to teach us, says the Zohar, that we are to make a sanctuary in the heart of each and every Jew. It is an obligation of every man and woman to create a personal sanctuary, a place of holiness and sanctity within ourselves to elevate our physical, material self, and transform it into an altar of service to G-d. Through the instruction and guidance of Torah, we are to inject the sanctity and holiness of the Mishkan and all of its vessels into our being and create a Temple of G-d therein.

Our observance of Mitzvos, the commandments – Kashrut, Shabbos, prayer, morality, honesty, kindness and charity, etc.– makes us so spiritual, special, and unique that we become and construct our own "Mishkan Ma'at", miniature sanctuary, worthy of having G-d's shechina, spirit, literally reside and take residence in our physical being.

Mitzvah by mitzvah, brick by brick, we build daily our very own mishkan.

***Shabbat Shalom,***

***Rabbi Kalman Winter***

## TABLE TALK

### POINT TO PONDER

***Speak to Bnai Yisrael and let them take for Me a portion... take My portion (25:2).***

You may think women must participate as well, therefore the Torah says, Bnai Yisroel, excluding the Bnos/daughters (Rambam Shekalim 1:6).

Since women did not participate in donating the Shekalim, they are not participants in the public korbanos. Because they do not participate in public korbanos, they are not obligated to daven Musaf (Rav Akiva Eiger, Responsa 9).

Kohanim and Levi'im and men under the age of twenty also did not donate Shekalim (Shekalim 1:4 and Gr"a Shekalim 1:3). Why aren't they exempt from davening Musaf?

### PARSHA RIDDLE

***What is the name of the rock that the Aron sat on? Why is it called that?***

Please see next week's issue for the answer.

**Last issue's riddle:**

***What is the connection between Moshe's going to Hashem alone to receive the Torah and Moshe's appearance to Pharaoh in Mitzrayim?***

**Answer:** Since all the Elders deserted Moshe enroute to Pharaoh, only Moshe went up to Hashem.

## TIMELESS WISDOM

### ***Take for Me... (25:2)***

Rav Shmuel HaNagid was the leader of the Jewish people in Spain, and a close confidant of the Spanish king. The non-Jewish advisors in the palace were jealous of the special relationship this Jew had with the king. In order to try to bring about Rav Shmuel's demise, they fabricated a lie to the king, accusing Rav Shmuel of stealing from the king's treasury.

The king was shocked. In order to verify the story, he asked Rav Shmuel to bring a list of all the money and possessions that he owns. Rav Shmuel asked for a few days, and then brought his accounting to the king. The king was shocked. Rav Shmuel was known to be a wealthy man, but the amount of money on the list did not equal what he believed Rav Shmuel owned. "He must be lying" the king thought to himself. "He is probably guilty of taking my money, and is trying to downplay his wealth in order to cover up for his theft."

The king questioned Rav Shmuel about the surprising numbers. "Let me explain," Rav Shmuel said. "I have a lot more wealth at home, but his majesty asked me to log my possessions. You see, the wealth I have at home can be confiscated from me without a moment's notice. If the king would kill me, or commandeer my possessions, I would be left with nothing. The only possessions I truly own are those that I donated to the poor or to Torah institutions. These monies cannot be taken away from me, and even after my death they will accompany me to my ultimate home in heaven. If you want an accounting of all the possessions in my earthly home, please give me a few more days and I will log them as well."

This concept – that what we donate to charity is really the only thing we truly own -- is hinted to in the posuk. The Torah does not refer to donating money to the Bais Hamikdash as "giving," but rather as "taking." Only through donating our money can we be guaranteed that we truly "own" our money.

## KIDS KORNER

### WHO AM I?

#### #1 WHO AM I?

1. I had blossoms even in winter.
2. I was a fiery creation.
3. I can be found on the "Arch of Titus"
4. I caused the Kohen Gadol to walk the longer route.

#### #2 WHO AM I?

1. I was only for the first.
2. I was a three-in-one deal.
3. I caused a fight.
4. Beware! I can cause death.

#### LAST ISSUE'S ANSWERS

**#1 Shabbos** (I come after 6 days and 6 years; I am for the ox and donkey and for the field.)

**#2 Bore/Pit** (I must be covered; fill me up; I am not a bore yet I am one; I am not for humans or vessels.)

#### CONGRATULATIONS TO:

**Moshe Sussman**

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 gift  
certificate to

MAX'S CAFE

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

The next raffle will  
be March 25<sup>th</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

The Kollel, in conjunction with Young Israel Shomrai Emunah, invites men and women of the community to a Jewish Ethics Lecture by Rabbi Walter. The topic is ***"The Trolley Problem and The Runaway Train: Triage Decisions in Halacha."*** The lecture will be held on Sunday, February 9<sup>th</sup>, at 9:30 AM in YISE's social hall.