



The Greater Washington Community Kollel

SHABBOS DELIGHTS

TORAH MINUTE

IN MEMORY OF RABBI KALMAN WINTER ZT" L

Parshas Tazria deals primarily with the laws of Tzaraas - a spiritual malady indicated by a change in skin color to a specific white hue. The Talmud (Arachin 16a) tells us that this "disease" was caused by seven anti-social behaviors, prominent among them slander. There was no elixir or tonic capable of curing the sickness. Rather, the afflicted had to seek out one of the Kohanim (Priests). The Kohein would diagnose the ailment and prescribe, if necessary, the proper purification process. The Mishna (Negaim 2:5) teaches us that even a Kohein who is afflicted must proceed to another Kohein for a determination and may not diagnose himself - "All afflictions he (the Kohein) may see (render judgment), except for his own afflictions." The Kohein too must seek the guidance and counsel of his colleague, and not rely on his own judgment.

Homiletically, this Mishna could be understood on a deeper level. Everyone, great or small, has their own "spiritual ailments." These shortcomings we readily and easily see in our friends and neighbors. Our own shortcomings, however, are more difficult to discern. This necessitates finding a "Kohein," be it a Rabbi, mentor, friend or spouse, and seeking their honest and candid feedback about ourselves. This is not a sign of weakness; on the contrary, it is a brave admission of the inherent human vulnerabilities. For the journey of life is far too precious to travel with blind spots.

Have a wonderful Shabbos!

Rabbi Menachem Winter

TABLE TALK

POINT TO PONDER

**If one's flesh will have an inflammation on its skin... (13:18)
If a person will have a burn from fire on his skin... (13:24)**

The type of tzaraas that develops after an inflammation and the type of tzaraas that develops after a burn are identical. Why did the Torah list them separately? To teach that if a person has a half size tzaraas from an inflammation and a half size tzaraas from a burn, they do not combine into one shiur (Rashi).

Any two items whose tuma are the same, combine to complete the required amount to transmit tuma (Me'ila 4:3).

Since the above two tzaraas types have the same halochos of tuma, why don't they combine?

PARSHA RIDDLE

How does the month of Nisan affect our celebration of Purim?

Please see next week's issue for the answer.

Last issue's riddle:

For which two sins were special korbonos brought during the inauguration of the Mishkan?

Answer: A calf for the Golden Calf, and a goat for the sale of Yosef, when they dipped his coat in goat's blood.

TIMELESS WISDOM

On the eighth day the orla shall be circumcised (12:3).

When Rav Avrohom Chacham zt"l became the Rav in Poras, he met one of the doctors in town. The doctor was Jewish, but he and his family had converted to Islam. Rav Avrohom asked him, "Why did you convert? Do you really believe in the Muslim faith?" The doctor responded, "No, I know that the Muslim faith is a farce, but I think Judaism has its fabrications as well. In order to be more successful in my field, I chose the falsehood of Islam over the falsehood of Judaism."

The Rav was taken aback and asked, "What fabrications did you find with Judaism?" The doctor responded, "I was told the following Midrash: When Yona was swallowed into the fish, the leviathan wanted to swallow the fish and Yona together. When Yona told the leviathan that he was circumcised, the leviathan fled. This is foolishness. Why should the leviathan flee due to Yona being circumcised? It doesn't make any sense. So I figured that a belief that can sell such fabrications must not be so true. Therefore, my family and I converted."

The Rav told him, "You should have asked me to explain the Midrash before taking such a rash step. Chazal were explaining why the leviathan ran away. Most living beings live a natural course that governs their existence and actions. Only man is not limited by his natural tendencies and has the ability to choose what to do. The proof to this fact is from every Jewish father 'wounding' his newborn son when giving him a bris. Normal instincts inhibit a father from circumcising his son. However, Hashem's command to circumcise him overrides his normal, paternal feelings. When the leviathan heard this phenomenon, he realized that he did not have the right to eat a creature that lives on such a lofty level of being able to choose to live beyond his natural inclinations."

The doctor listened and eventually repented.

All children
13 and under
who answer a
"Who Am I?"
correctly will
be entered
into a raffle to

Win a
super
prize

Congratulations
to
Yitzchok
Tzvi Leiman
winner of the
drawing for the
\$50 gift
certificate to
Max's
Cafe

KIDS KORNER

WHO AM I?

#1 WHO AM I?

1. I am mentioned at the Seder.
2. I take precedence over Shabbos.
3. I was first for 99.
4. I was also for 13.

#2 WHO AM I?

1. I am the first.
2. I am the seventh.
3. This year I am the eighth.
4. I am for redemption.

LAST ISSUE'S ANSWERS

#1 Drinking wine (I was a mitzvah this week; I will kill you in the Bais HaMikdash; I bring out your essence; I work like money and anger.)

#2 Kosher (I am for food and nowadays I am for phones; I could even be for a sheitel; I have many symbols.)

CONGRATULATIONS TO:

Dovie Shimoff

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.

KOLLEL BULLETIN BOARD

Thursday Nights at the Kollel ...

Join the excitement Thursday nights at the Kollel! Rabbi Brotsky explores Jewish Mysticism with the writings of Rav Chaim Volozener at 8:15 PM. Come and see the parsha through the lens of Jewish law and Talmudic perspectives in Rabbi Winter's Torah Topics class at 9:00 PM. Boys in grades 7-9 can join Rabbi Zakem's Halachic Conundrums class for a challenging discussion of Jewish law. Or bring your own chavrusa and grab a seat! And don't forget to enjoy some cholent and soda!