



The Greater Washington Community Kollel

SHABBOS DELIGHTS

TORAH MINUTE

IN MEMORY OF RABBI KALMAN WINTER ZT"L

The idea of being a king conjures up fantasies of unmitigated power and an existence surrounded by every pleasure and luxury imaginable. Every whim is immediately fulfilled and every desire is instantly met. Who could possibly be happier than a king?

The Torah teaches us that there is a voluntary, temporary status that a man or woman can accept upon themselves, the status of a "Nazir." Characterized by a theme and spirit of moderation, this unique spiritual state of holiness results in three restrictions: a) not to consume any grapes or any derivations thereof, including wine; b) not to cut any of his hair; c) not to contract any ritual impurity through a human corpse. In explaining the restriction on ritual impurity, the Torah states "for the crown of his G-d is on his head." The Ibn Ezra elaborates on the meaning of the verse as follows: "All of mankind is enslaved to the pleasures of this world. Only the one who is free from desire is considered a true king, with a royal crown upon his head."

How remarkable! True kingship is not marked by dominion or wealth, but by self-control and moderation, illustrated by the vows of temperance taken by the Nazir.

We may not be able to attain the riches of a king, or be vested with royal power. We are, however, able to adorn ourselves with a "crown" of "true kingship" through a measure of self-control and restraint.

Have a wonderful Shabbos!

Rabbi Menachem Winter

TABLE TALK

POINT TO PONDER

May Hashem bless you and safeguard you (6:24).

Safeguard you from the Evil Inclination (Medrash Agadda).

Everything is in the Hand of Heaven, besides fear of Heaven (Berachos 33a).

The only one responsible to ensure that we fear Hashem, and thereby stay away from sin, is ourselves, not Hashem. Why do the Kohanim bless Bnei Yisrael that Hashem should protect them from the Evil Inclination?

PARSHA RIDDLE

At what other point in the year do we read from Parshas Naso?

Please see next week's issue for the answer.

Last issue's riddle:

How is it possible to have more than a year between one Shavuot and the next one – even without a leap year?

Answer: Before there was a set calendar, Shavuot could be on the 5th, 6th or 7th of Sivan (since Shavuot is on the 50th day of the Omer). So if one year Shavuot was on the 5th, the following year it could have been on the 7th, which is two days longer than a year from the preceding Shavuot.

TIMELESS WISDOM

The mountain of Hashem, the mountain near Bashan (Har Sinai)... (Tehillim 68:16)

Rav Nosson taught, when Hashem wanted to give the Torah to Bnei Yisrael, the mountains came to Hashem. Har Tavor claimed, "I am the tallest mountain, it is befitting that the Torah be given on me." The mountain of Karmel came to Hashem and said, "I am a better choice for the Torah to be given on me." Hashem told them, "You have proven that you are not the proper mountain to be used for the giving of the Torah. I cannot give the Torah by means of anything / anyone haughty... therefore, I choose Har Sinai to give the Torah on it (Medrash Tehillim 68:9).

Rav Shulsinger had a young man in his Yeshiva that was having a hard time, so he brought him to the Steipler, a great sage, for chizuk/inspiration. Before the Steipler could be briefed on the situation, he asked the young man to sit down next to him, and told him the following:

"Sometimes people act and perform in order to receive approval and recognition from people. When that approval and acknowledgment does not come, they feel unsuccessful and broken. You should know, the reason why one learns Torah is not in order to receive recognition; rather, we learn Torah in order to fulfill the Will of our Creator, and to be sufficiently knowledgeable so that we may converse in Torah in the World to Come. If one performs because that is what is required of him, then he will find great success and satisfaction from his learning and service of Hashem."

KIDS KORNER

WHO AM I?

#1 WHO AM I?

1. I am a crown.
2. I am a vow.
3. I prevent intoxication.
4. I am separated.

#2 WHO AM I?

1. I am to turn.
2. Some spell me with a "Samech".
3. Some spell me with a "Sin".
4. I lead to a Nazir.

LAST ISSUE'S ANSWERS

#1 Torah (I pre-dated the world; I was written in black, yet I was a blue print; I am for all; I am named for Moshe.)

#2 Counting Bnei Yisrael (I can cause a plague; use money; for me some use a posuk; don't confuse me with royalty.)

CONGRATULATIONS TO:

Yakov Rhine

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 super prize

Mazel Tov to Shlomo Yitzchok Fischer, who has won this cycle's prize of a Razor Pro XX Scooter !

Stay tuned for the next raffle date!

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

Coming Soon!

Start your week off the right way with your choice from several new classes being offered at YISE on Sunday mornings. Join the GWCK Sunday Kollel Brunch & Learn for bagel brunch at 9:30 followed by classes from 10:00 - 10:45. Choose from classes on Talmud, the weekly Parsha, Navi, and Jewish Philosophy.