



The Greater Washington Community Kollel

SHABBOS DELIGHTS

TORAH MINUTE

IN MEMORY OF RABBI KALMAN WINTER ZT" L

During its desert travels, the Jewish people grew weary and began to complain. They cried out to Moshe about the lack of water and bread. In response to their unjustified and ungrateful claims, G-d sends deadly serpents against the people. Realizing their mistake, they beg Moshe to pray on their behalf and save them, which he does. With G-d's instruction, Moshe places a serpent copper atop a pole. Whoever gazed at the serpent, would be healed from its deadly bite.

The complaints of the people are perplexing. They had manna falling from the heavens daily and water gushing forth from a rock. They seemingly had nothing to complain about!

Rabbeinu Bachaya explains that the people wanted their food and drink provided to them *like other nations*. They had ample provisions, but their sustenance was provided via miraculous means, directly from G-d. G-d cared for them in this way, as befitting His children, and in order to nurture their power of faith that G-d was always there for them. But this was precisely the matter against which the people rebelled. The nation desired an ordinary existence, one that was free of the supernatural and the expectations that came with such a lofty status. They wanted to be unburdened from this intimate relationship with G-d.

Perhaps this was the message. Extraordinary serpents were sent against the nation and they were healed in an entirely miraculous fashion. The message was clear. The fate of the Jewish people would never be "ordinary" and their existence would never be "matter of course." The nation discerned the lesson, and acknowledged their error.

As G-d's special and cherished nation, we can never be "ordinary," nor should we ever want to be.

Have a wonderful Shabbos!

Rabbi Menachem Winter

If you would like to sign up to receive the weekly "Shabbos Delights" by email, please send an email to info@gwckollel.org.

TABLE TALK

POINT TO PONDER

The Canaanite king of Arad, who dwelled in the south, heard that Bnei Yisrael had come by the way of the spies, and he warred against Bnei Yisrael...Bnei Yisrael made a vow to Hashem, "If You deliver this people..." (21:1-2)

These were people of Amalek who changed their manner of speech to be like that of the Canaanites. They did this in order that Bnei Yisrael should think that they are from Canaan, and would daven to be saved from the Canaanites. Since they were really Amalekim, their prayer would not be effective regarding this battle.

However, Bnei Yisrael noticed a discrepancy. The clothing was that of Amalek, but the speech was that of Canaan. Unsure as to which nation was attacking them, they asked Hashem to deliver them from "this people", and were answered (Rashi).

If they were trying to fool Bnei Yisrael, why did they only change their language? They should have also changed their clothing, and would not have given Bnei Yisrael any leads as to their true nationality. This mistake is what cost them the war. Why couldn't they dress up as Canaanites as well?

PARSHA RIDDLE

What other name is attributed to Parshas Chukas?

Please see next week's issue for the answer.

Last issue's riddle:

How did Kabbalas Shabbos cause the death of two people in two different instances?

Answer: In Kabbalas Shabbos we say "Moshe and Aaron were among His priests, and Shmuel among those who invoke His name." 1) Korach – when he saw he would have a descendant (Shmuel) who is equated with Moshe and Aaron, decided he could argue with them, thereby leading to his death. 2) Shmuel – when he saw he was equated with Moshe and Aaron, he claimed that his appointee to king, Shaul, cannot be removed from his position during his lifetime. Therefore, Hashem made Shmuel die young in order to be able to have Shaul die (Taanis 5b).

TIMELESS WISDOM

The out pouring of rivers...

Rivers of blood signaled to Bnei Yisrael that Hashem had performed a miracle for them. The Amorites had hidden themselves in the caves of the cliffs that overlooked the gorge where Bnei Yisrael would pass through. They planned to attack Bnei Yisrael as they passed beneath them. They did not realize that the Aron with the Torah inside of it traveled ahead of Bnei Yisrael offering protection. When it approached these cliffs, it caused them to join together, thereby leveling off the ground, and crushing the would-be attackers to death. After Bnei Yisrael passed through the area, and the gorge reappeared, they saw the blood pouring out of the caves in the cliffs (Rashi).

The Chofetz Chaim was spearheading a project to build a Jewish hospital in a certain city. He traveled to the city to meet with the wealthy individuals of the city, to solicit their support. After presenting the need for such a building, the donors began committing to how many beds they would donate.

Word spread that the Chofetz Chaim was in town, and many bochurim from the Yeshiva came to catch a glimpse of the Gadol. Seeing these Bnei Torah in the doorway, the Chofetz Chaim shifted his attention to them, and invited them in. One of the wealthy people in the room felt slighted that the Chofetz Chaim had shifted his attention from them for these bochurim. Trying to prove his importance over the importance of the bochurim, he asked the Chofetz Chaim, "How many beds are they donating?"

Without missing a beat the Chofetz Chaim responded, "Fifty a piece." Now the donors were confused. They could not commit to more than twenty or twenty five beds! How were these poor boys donating so much?

Seeing their confusion the Chofetz Chaim continued, "You are donating beds for the ill to lie on, and perhaps die on. These boys are donating fifty beds for healthy people. Their Torah study protects the community, and each bochur's learning saves fifty people from falling ill onto one of your beds."

KIDS KORNER

WHO AM I?

#1 WHO AM I ?

1. I am celebrated after Yom Kippur.
2. The attack came upon my departure.
3. I was for Aaron.
4. I was for Moshe.

#2 WHO AM I ?

1. I was a well, but you did not draw from me.
2. I was for the sister.
3. I rolled along with Bnei Yisrael.
4. I looked like a sieve, but I was not used for sifting.

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 held on July 22nd!

Answer as many as you can because each correct answer will entitle you to another raffle ticket and increase your chance of winning!

LAST ISSUE'S ANSWERS

#1 Creations that were created Erev

Shabbos, Bein Hashmoshos (Entangled Ram; wooden staff with flowers waiting to bloom; mouth of the donkey; mouth of the ground.)

#2 Korach (My lineage was not fully delineated and caused my downfall; don't confuse me with Rabbi Akiva; I was not ice.)

Please see next week's issue for the answers to this week's questions.

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