



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.

In this week's Torah portion of Mattos, we read of the very last mission in the long and illustrious life of Moshe Rabbeinu. He is commanded by G-d to wage war against the Midianites. In chapter 31 verse 6, the Torah records: "Moshe sent them - a thousand from each tribe for the legion - them and Pinchas son of Elazar the Kohen to the legion..." The Midrash tells us that the words "Moshe sent them" teaches us that Moshe, the commander-in-chief of all Jewish forces, did not participate himself in the battle of Midian. The Midrash continues that Moshe refrained from joining the battle against Midian because in his flight from Egypt many years before, he took refuge in the home of Yisro who resided in the land of Midian. Moshe felt a personal sense of gratitude to the Midianites and removed himself from direct engagement with them. The Midrash concludes with a parable. "The well from which one draws his water should not be the place he throws his stones."

We learn from this Midrash the paramount importance of gratitude for all good things done for another. Even an inanimate object, such as a well, requires our sensitivity and acknowledgment not to cast our stones into the waters from which we drink. How much more so are we required to appreciate and understand our obligations of gratitude for family, friends, and institutions from which we have benefited and drawn support, strength, and inspiration. By extension from the parable of the well, we learn that even our bed, which provides us with sleep and comfort, should be made in the morning. More than the need of our bed, this is an opportunity for us to sensitize ourselves on a daily basis to set our eyes and heart to appreciate all that is done for us from every quarter.

Shabbat Shalom,
Rabbi Kalman Winter

TABLE TALK

POINT TO PONDER

The children of Reuven and the children of Gad had abundant livestock... (32:1)

The children of Gad and the children of Reuven came and said to Moshe... (32:2)

Why does the Torah switch the order of their names? In the first verse, the Torah lists the children of Reuven first, and in the second verse the children of Gad are listed first!

PARSHA RIDDLE

Then you shall be clean from Hashem and from Klal Yisrael (32:22).

How do you know from here that first and foremost a person must be concerned with what Hashem thinks, and then to be concerned what people think?

Please see next week's issue for the answer.

Last issue's riddle:

Besides for Aharon and his sons, who in history became a Kohen, even though he was not born to a Kohen?

Answer: Pinchas

TIMELESS WISDOM

On the seventeenth of Tammuz they breached the walls of Yerushalayim (Taanis 26b).

The Alter of Slabodka was directed by his doctors to visit the city of Krinitz to be healed by the clean air found along the beach. It was during the summer and many of the Alter's students, who had assumed positions of leadership throughout Europe, came to Krinitz to glean wisdom from their Rebbe.

One day, as they were walking along the beach, the Alter began to speak about the mourning for the Bais HaMikdash. "The Gemara (Yoma 9) tried to figure out why Bnei Yisrael were punished with such a long exile after the destruction of the second Bais HaMikdash. The Gemara concludes that, even though Bnei Yisrael were very learned, their interpersonal relationships were lacking. People could not get along." The Alter continued: "What about us? We are all very learned, and we are scrupulous to fulfill every dictum of halacha, especially the halachos pertaining to the period when we mourn the Bais Hamikdash. But let's be honest. If on Tisha B'av someone else would be honored with reciting the kinah "Arzei Halivonon," would we not feel anger that we were not so honored? Wouldn't we be upset at all those who stood by silently while we were not honored to our expectations?"

"If we want to end this exile, we need to be a little less focused on our own personal kavod, and not be as quick to ensure that we are honored properly. If we do that, we will merit to see the coming of Moshiach."

KIDS KORNER

WHO AM I?

#1 WHO AM I ?

1. I became a snake for Moshe.
2. I am to lean.
3. You sleep on me.
4. There were twelve of me.

#2 WHO AM I ?

1. I am named for my duration.
2. I started this week.
3. Time of destruction.
4. I start and end with a fast.

LAST ISSUE'S ANSWERS

#1 Eliyahu (Yaakov took my 'vav'; I am still alive; you sing about me; I have a special chair.)

#2 Shalosh Regalim (I was hinted to last week; I am discussed this week; I won't be for three months; I have three parts.)

CONGRATULATIONS TO:

Yehuda Samberg

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



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!

KOLLEL BULLETIN BOARD

The Kollel, in conjunction with Young Israel Shomrai Emunah, invites men and women of the community to a special lecture.

"Recurring Tragedy: The Relevance of Mourning the Churban"

will be given by Rabbi Moshe Hauer in the social hall of YISE, Sunday, July 20th, at 8:00 PM.

The lecture will be preceded by Mincha at 7:45 and followed by Maariv.