



The Greater Washington Community Kollel

SHABBOS DELIGHTS

TORAH MINUTE

IN MEMORY OF RABBI KALMAN WINTER ZT" L

“Judges and enforcement officers you shall appoint for yourself in all your cities which Hashem your God gives you...”

The Torah enjoins the nation to establish a court system for each city and tribe, in addition to the Sanhedrin - the national high court. This would ensure easy access for the people to clarify the commandments, resolve disputes, and adjudicate litigation. As well, the Torah calls for enforcement officers to ensure the decisions of the judges are implemented and uphold the standards and morals of the society.

Here, in recognition of the potential for man to be influenced by the basest aspects of his nature and to dominate and exploit his fellow, the Torah is calling for a system of law and a mechanism for enforcement to secure honesty and uprightness.

Rabbi Moshe Feinstein notes that a careful reading of the Torah’s text yields an additional message. The seemingly superfluous words "for yourself" in the directive above are conveying to us a timeless and essential lesson. Indeed, we must erect courts and procedures to ensure that society does not deteriorate into chaos and anarchy. However, while these institutions assist us in checking ourselves, we cannot suffice ourselves with these external safeguards.

We must, in addition, become "officers" over ourselves - each person cultivating his inherent moral compass and nourishing his intellect with the ideals of the Torah. With his vitalized intellect and fortified will-power, he will gain a mastery over his drives and succeed in sublimating his base urges. It is then that society will truly live together in peace and harmony.

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

Or who will come with his fellow into the forest... (19:5)

Rebbi Yehuda says, a blind person who kills someone accidentally does not go into exile. The reason is since the posuk says "without seeing" and a blind person never sees (Makos 9a).

Rebbi Yehuda says, a blind person is exempt from all the mitzvos of the Torah (Kiddushin 31a).

If a blind person is exempt from the mitzvos anyway, he would not be obligated to go into exile either. So why does Rebbi Yehuda need a special drasha to teach that?

PARSHA RIDDLE

What is the connection between an unworthy judge and an Asheira tree?

Please see next week's issue for the answer.

Last issue's riddle:

In Halacha, blood is compared to which liquid?

Answer: Water

TIMELESS WISDOM

For these nations that you are possessing – they hearken to astrologers... but as for you, not so has Hashem your G-d given you. A Prophet from your midst... like me... to him you shall listen (18:14-15).

The Chazon Ish, after acquiring a fluency in all areas of the "Revealed Torah," decided he was ready to learn the secrets of the "Hidden Torah." He traveled to a well-known Mekubal who taught this area of Torah.

Upon his arrival, the Chazon Ish asked the Mekubal a difficult question on a certain Tosefos. The Mekubal responded with an answer. However, to the dismay of the Chazon Ish, it was obvious in the answer that there was a lack of complete grasp of the sugya.

The Chazon Ish finished their meeting as if he had just come to "talk in learning" and went home without asking to be taught the secrets of the Torah. "Someone who is not saturated with the 'Revealed Torah' cannot teach or learn the 'Hidden Torah.'"

KIDS KORNER

WHO AM I?

#1 WHO AM I ?

1. I must be two.
2. I can't be related.
3. I must be questioned.
4. In Shema I am large.

#2 WHO AM I ?

1. I am a new house.
2. I am a new vineyard.
3. I am a new wife.
4. I am afraid.

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 September 30!

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 Avoda Zora (I must be destroyed; I cause impurity; I can cause the destruction of entire cities; I am strange.)

#2 Dam/Blood (I am the soul; use salt; I am red; I am not stupid.)

CONGRATULATIONS TO:

Liam Ratner

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

KOLLEL BULLETIN BOARD



Sweeten the New Year with Torah learning!

The Elul Semester begins this Sunday, August 31st.

Check out one of our exciting classes, or find a chavrusa to learn a topic of your choice.



SAVE THE DATE! THE GWCK GALA DINNER WILL BE SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 16!