



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.

We will shortly celebrate the holiday of Sukkos, known as the "Festival of Joy." Why this holiday, more than Passover and Shavuot, is called the Holiday of Joy is the subject of great discussions among the commentaries. I share with you the comments of the Vilna Gaon as to the meaning of the Sukkos holiday and in turn will clarify this designation - "Festival of Joy."

The prevalent opinion in Rabbinic Literature is that Sukkos commemorates the Clouds of Glory that accompanied our nation when we left Egypt. These miraculous clouds enveloped our people in their travels through the desert, providing shelter, security, warmth and protection. No obstacle was too great to overcome. However, with the transgression of the Golden Calf, we lost the privilege and Providence of this great miracle. No longer were we enveloped by the Divine in such an extraordinary fashion. More than the forfeiture of our physical necessities and comforts, we lost G-d's intimacy and personal intervention. It was a censure from Heaven.

When Moshe descended the mount bearing the second set of tablets on Yom Kippur, he brought us both G-d's law and eternal love. We were not only forgiven for the transgressions of the Golden Calf, but once again we found favor and grace in the eyes of G-d. Our relationship was healed and repaired. To reflect this special moment that defined eternally G-d's love and unique relationship to His nation Israel, Moshe embarked, the following day after Yom Kippur, on the first building campaign in Jewish history - the construction of the Mishkan, the Tabernacle. In this place, G-d's spirit would reside amidst His people.

In three days' time all goods and services were appealed for and collected. On the fourth day it was determined that all was in place and the campaign was concluded. The following day, plans for construction began. This day was the first day of Sukkos. This special day marked not only the physical presence of a Mishkan, but it also brought back in its wake the wondrous Clouds of Glory. We were reunited in body and soul with our Father in Heaven. Our joy knew no bounds. Hence, on Sukkos, the booths which we enter to eat, drink, engage, and yes, even sleep, replicate the Clouds of Glory that likewise envelop us. This, then, is the meaning of Sukkos, the "Festival of Joy." It is the historical marker where G-d declared that in spite of the grave sin of the Golden Calf, our repentance brought us back into the embrace of His outstretched arms with love and Providence then and forever after.

Enjoy and savor this rich and beautiful Yom Tov with both family and friends.

Rabbi Kalman Winter

TABLE TALK

POINT TO PONDER

**And you should take for yourself on the first day...
(Emor 23:40)**

The first day, means the first day of the calculation of aveiros (Tanchuma Emor 22).

Why will a person stay away from sin until Sukkos? What is stopping a person from sinning until the first day of Yom Tov? If a person was able to remain pure while preparing for Sukkos, why would he fall to temptation on the first day of Yom Tov?

PARSHA RIDDLE

How could a person be doing an aveira by building a sukkah (on a weekday)?

Please see next week's issue for the answer.

Last issue's riddle:

What similarity is there between Yom Kippur and Asara B'Teves?

Answer: When they are on Shabbos, we fast.

TIMELESS WISDOM

It (the Torah) has not students like Yisrael... (Piyut I'Simchas Torah)

Rav Chaim Zaichik was exiled to Siberia during the Second World War. His unit was assigned to fix tanks. One job was considered the hardest job of all, which was to go draw the water from the well, three kilometers away. Rav Chaim offered to take on that task.

Near the well was a village. It was forbidden for the prisoners to visit the village, so Rav Chaim was timed from when he left to get the water, until he got back, to make sure he did not make a detour to the village. Rav Chaim, though, devised a plan. He would run all three kilometers to the well, which gained him a few minutes, after which he would run into the village and look for a mezuzah. Being limited in time, he only got to check a few homes every day.

After a few days, Rav Chaim found a mezuzah. Excitedly he knocked on the door. The woman who answered the door was shocked at the appearance of the person in front of her. She handed him some bread and began to close the door. "No" Rav Chaim cried, "I am a Yid, I do not want food, I need a Sefer." The husband came to the door, and told Rav Chaim, "I have one sefer; that is the only Jewish thing that I have, I cannot give it to a stranger." Rav Chaim begged, "Please give me one page." The man went to get the Sefer. When he returned, Rav Chaim saw that there were two masechtos in the Sefer, Nedarim and Nazir. Rav Chaim begged, "I'll take one masechta, and you keep the other".

That was done, and Rav Chaim hurried to get back before anyone realized what he had done. Rav Chaim was excited, and he carefully kept his gemara hidden so the communists would not destroy it. Soon, Elul approached, then Rosh Hashana and Yom Kippur passed, Sukkos was over, and Simchas Torah arrived. Rav Chaim sadly remembered the days in his Yeshiva when the bochorim would dance so happily, reveling in their opportunity to learn Torah. He realized, though, that he too had a Torah with him – his gemara under his prisoner garb. He caressed his gemara, and to the bewildered eyes of the Russians, began to dance "Blessed is our G-d, that we were created for His honor..."

KIDS KORNER

WHO AM I?

#1 WHO AM I ?

1. I was for cattle.
2. I was cloudy.
3. I make you move.
4. My name describes my design.

#2 WHO AM I ?

1. I have a siyum.
2. I make you circle.
3. I make you rejoice.
4. I am the day to say goodbye.

LAST ISSUE'S ANSWERS

#1 Vidui (I make you bend; I make you bang; I am for the mouth; I am for the heart.)

#2 Shemoneh Esrei (Most days I am three times; some days I am four times; this Shabbos I am five times; my name is one off.)

CONGRATULATIONS TO:

Yerachmiel Pepper

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
**JUMBO
BANANAGRAMS
GAME**

Please visit www.gwckollel.org to submit your answers.

The next raffle will be held on December 2!

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 Fall Semester at GWCK begins Sunday, the 2nd of Cheshvan, October 26th.



Join the Kollel in Silver Spring, Potomac, and D.C. for classes and other exciting learning opportunities!

Stay tuned for the Fall Semester schedule.

Join us at our Gala Dinner, Sunday, Nov. 16, as we continue the legacy of Rabbi Kalman Winter zt"l and celebrate our 7th year of Jewish Outreach and Education. Honoring Rabbi Stephen & Mrs. Ruth Baars and Dr. Marc & Mrs. Debbie Katz ~ Sunday November 16, 2014, 5 PM at Beth Sholom Congregation, Potomac, MD

Make reservations now or place messages and ads in the ad journal at www.gwckollel.org.

Ads will be published in a commemorative printing of a unique Jewish history book to be distributed at the dinner.