



The Greater Washington Community Kollel

SHABBOS DELIGHTS

TORAH MINUTE

IN MEMORY OF RABBI KALMAN WINTER ZT" L

In our quest to infuse our lives with spirituality and meaning, we can become frustrated and disheartened by our need to attend to the quotidian tasks that impose themselves upon us. Even the few moments we are able to engage in something spiritual – be it lending a hand to another or the little time we can carve out for prayer or study -- don't feel meaningful and significant.

How do we reenergize ourselves as we go through everyday life? How do we transform the mundane into the sublime?

As Avraham is convalescing from his circumcision, he sees what appear to be three weary travelers making their way towards him. The Torah records in rich detail every aspect of the narrative: how Avraham graciously and generously cared for his guests, how he ran to greet them and implored them to rest and recuperate from their journey, the lavish meal he prepared for them, etc. The verbosity employed by the Torah substantially deviates from its normally concise mode of expression. Why such detail?

Rabbi Yerucham Levovitz shares with us the following. The righteous understand the significance and importance of their actions. Rabbi Levovitz gives an analogy of someone that inherits a house - when referring to his new property, he doesn't say much except that he has a new home. However, when someone purchases land and builds his own home, he talks about every step of the process and conveys every feature of his house with the greatest detail. Here, he is invested. Here, he is impassioned. And here, every detail matters. Rabbi Levovitz continues that the righteous are aware that through their actions and deeds they are building a spiritual edifice. They are forging a bond with G-d by emulating Him with their conduct. Because of this, the Torah records Avraham's encounter with his guests in such detail, reflecting the significance Avraham himself attached to it.

The "small" things we do every day are in reality imbued with great importance. The "insignificant" smile we share to uplift a coworker's spirits, the "little" things we do to care and nurture our children and spouses, and the "few" minutes we are engaged in prayer and study, are invested with transcendental meaning. We only have to open up our hearts and minds to it.

Have a wonderful Shabbos!

Rabbi Menachem Winter

TABLE TALK

POINT TO PONDER

Hashem remembered Sarah... (21:1)

G-d (Elokim) remembered Rachel... (Vayeitzei 30:22)

Why does the Torah use the name Yud, Hay, Vuv, Hay in regard to Sarah being remembered for a child, and the name Elokim in regard to Rachel being remembered for a child?

PARSHA RIDDLE

From where do we derive that Hashem only allows us to see what He wants us to see?

Please see next week's issue for the answer.

Last issue's riddle:

To which natural phenomenon are the descendants of Yishmael compared and why?

Answer: Clouds. Just as clouds appear, and then dissipate, so to the Yishmaelim will dissipate (Rashi).

TIMELESS WISDOM

Hashem remembered Avraham... and he saved Lot... (19:29)

Rav Solomon Mutzapi would get up in middle of the night and go to Shul to recite Tikun Chatzos. One night, unbeknownst to Rav Mutzapi, the British had rounded up residents of the neighborhood and had them gathered together on government grounds. As Rav Mutzapi was walking to shul, he saw hundreds of Jews who were among those rounded up. Concerned that his fellow Jews should not waste their time, he delivered a stirring drasha for them, and then they joined him in reciting Tikun Chatzos.

No doubt aided by their dire situation, those gathered wholeheartedly recited the prayers lamenting the destruction of the Bais HaMikdash and praying for the Final Redemption.

Shortly after their davening concluded, the government officials came and released all the Jews. Rav Mutzapi commented, "Our spiritual and physical existence are bound one with the other. I enabled the spiritual existence of these Jews to soar and become free. Anytime spirituality is elevated, the physical existence will begin to soar as well."

KIDS KORNER

WHO AM I?

#1 WHO AM I ?

1. I am not Talmud Bavli.
2. I was turned upside down.
3. I was home to cruelty.
4. I was one of five.

#2 WHO AM I ?

1. My parents' reaction caused my name.
2. I was the first for the eighth.
3. Many celebrated my birth.
4. I was the second of the three.

LAST ISSUE'S ANSWERS

#1 Bris Bain Habesorim (I was a bris; I did not need a Mohel; I caused sleep; I was half time.)

#2 Bnai Yisrael (Starry, merciful, stubborn, countless.)

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!

CONGRATULATIONS TO:

Penina Green

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

KOLLEL BULLETIN BOARD

Now is a great opportunity to join Rabbi Schwartz's Chumash Expositions class as they begin the study of Parshas Chayei Sarah! Gain a deeper understanding of the themes and events of the book of Genesis through the eyes of classic commentaries.

Sunday evenings, 8:15-9:15 at Young Israel Ezras Israel Potomac.

Join us as we honor Rabbi & Mrs. Stephen Baars and Dr. & Mrs. Marc Katz at our Gala Dinner, Sunday, November 16th! Reservations can be submitted online at www.gwckollel.org or by calling 301-842-4925.