



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 the beginning of this week's parsha (Chayei Sarah, chapter 23), the Torah relates the death of Sarah, our matriarch. Abraham returns home from the Akeidah (the binding of Isaac upon the altar) and is informed of the demise of his beloved wife. One could but imagine the emotional roller coaster that Abraham endures. Fresh from the Akeidah, with all its spiritual accomplishments and personal growth, he is immediately confronted with another life crisis, the death of Sarah. Abraham needs to bury Sarah and find a most suitable site. He must negotiate with the people of Cheis for the purchase of a family plot. The Torah records (chapter 23, verse 3) "and Abraham rose up from the presence of his dead and spoke to the children of Cheis." The commentaries question the importance and need to state that Abraham "rose up from the presence of his dead." It's self-explanatory - simply let the Torah say that Abraham addressed the children of Cheis. The Torah is embedding a profound lesson when it says "he rose up." "Rose up" is not intended to be a physical matter, but rather an emotional state of mind and being. In the presence of his beloved Sarah, flush with intense grief and loss, Abraham rises and takes himself forth from his grief to meet and engage the people of Cheis. He locks away his great personal pain and externally, with great calm and bearing, addresses the people of Cheis. Abraham rises to that occasion with the eloquence and stature of a patriarch and prince of G-d. The impetus for this superlative display of character and strength was his "kavod ha-briyos" - his respect for all people. It would be unseemly to address them in grief while tears abound.

The encounters of the Torah are life models from which we are enjoined to draw upon our own strength and character. How aware and in touch we must be with our feelings. Our conflicts, stresses, loss, etc. are not to be transported into our relationships with people. At times we are short with family and friends. Our demeanor, conduct, and expressions reflect our difficulties and influence our behavior. Abraham teaches us - at the moment of his greatest loss, he "rose up" above his pain and addressed the people of Cheis in a manner of dignity, honor, and respect.

Shabbat Shalom,

*Rabbi Kalman Winter*

## TABLE TALK

### POINT TO PONDER

***Then the servant took ten camels of his master's camels... (24:10)***

*They were noticeably different, and recognized as Avraham's camels. They were muzzled in order that they not eat from the property of other people (Rashi).*

Rebbi Pinchos ben Yair's donkey would not eat food that was not tithed (Chulin 7b), because of the influence of Rebbi Pinchos ben Yair. Why would Avraham's camels be any different? Why would they eat from stolen goods?

### PARSHA RIDDLE

***Which two people had water come up for them?***

Please see next week's issue for the answer.

**Last issue's riddle:**

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

**Answer:** Hashem opened Hagar's eyes to the be'er. It had always been there, but she didn't see it until Hashem allowed her to.

## TIMELESS WISDOM

In Tunis there was a prevailing custom among the Arab population when they would meet a Jew. They would hit him on the head and say "This is for you and your ancestors." Not knowing how to deal with this issue, the Jews approached their Rav, Rav Yehoshua Basis, for advice. The Rav told them, "It will stop soon."

There were two wells in Tunis. One was located in the Jewish section, while the other was located in the Arab section. One day the well in the Jewish section dried up, and one man went with his son to draw water from the well on the Arab side of town.

A couple of Arab boys passed by and hit the son on his head. The son cried out "Ima, Ima!" Standing nearby was an official of the city. He asked the son the following: "Your father is standing next to you, and your mother is at home. Why did you call for your mother and not for your father?" The son responded, "I was not calling my biological mother; that would have been silly. I was calling my ancestral mother, Sarah. I was calling out asking why she gave her maidservant, Hagar, to Avraham, her husband, as that produced all the mean people that bother us."

The official was impressed with the response, and he forced the annulment of the custom.

## KIDS KORNER

### WHO AM I?

#### #1 WHO AM I ?

1. I was for the candle.
2. I was for the dough.
3. I was for the cloud.
4. I was for the first and second.

#### #2 WHO AM I ?

1. I may be a son.
2. I may be wealth.
3. I may be a daughter.
4. I was a blessing.

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](http://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!

#### LAST ISSUE'S ANSWERS

**#1 Amora/G'mora** (I am not Talmud Bavli; I am upside down; I was home to cruelty; I was one of five.)

**#2 Yitzchok** (My parents' reaction caused my name; I was the 1<sup>st</sup> for the 8<sup>th</sup>; many celebrated my birth; I was the 2<sup>nd</sup> of the 3.)

**CONGRATULATIONS TO:**

**Eli Herman**

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

## KOLLEL BULLETIN BOARD

***This Monday, November 17<sup>th</sup>, the GWCK will be hosting a two-part lecture for High School girls and parents of the community.***

***The lecture for teen girls, "The Truth of Judaism," will be at 6:00 p.m. at Young Israel Shomrai Emunah, 1132 Arcola Avenue, followed by the lecture for parents, "Inspiring Our Children: Can We Do Better?" at 8:00. Admission is free.***