



The Greater Washington Community Kollel

SHABBOS DELIGHTS

TORAH MINUTE

IN MEMORY OF RABBI KALMAN WINTER ZT" L

Everyone can agree that we live in a world that is far from utopian. Even on a more granular level, we see much work needed right at home, in our communities. With so much to do, where do we even begin?

Let us take a look at the life of the greatest of saviors – Moshe. As G-d's agent, he rescued an entire nation from slavery and oppression, split the mighty sea, and provided for them in a hostile desert environment for forty years. How did he begin his "career?"

When Moshe first ventures forth from the palace of Paroh, where he was miraculously raised, he encounters an Egyptian guard mercilessly beating a fellow Jew. Coming to the defense of the innocent victim, Moshe slays the guard and hides his body in the sand. The next day, Moshe witnesses two Jews quarreling with one another. As one of them lifts his hand to strike his antagonist, Moshe intercedes and admonishes him. In response, the chastised Jew asks Moshe sarcastically if he intends to kill him, just as he had killed the Egyptian guard. Fearing that the incident with the guard would become known and come to Paroh's attention, Moshe flees to sanctuary in the country of Midian. There he chances at a scene at a well, where seven girls are shepherding the family's flock. The local shepherds persecute the girls, and drive them away from the well, precluding them from watering their thirsty flock. Seeing this injustice, Moshe steps forward and defends the girls against the aggressors. He then goes on to personally water the sheep.

Remarkably, all three stories above are narrated in the first seven verses of our being introduced to Moshe! In all these instances, we see Moshe bravely and courageously taking up the cause of the oppressed - a stranger - at great risk to his own safety. Indeed, Sforno tells us that the meaning of the name Moshe, given to him by the daughter of Paroh, foreshadowed a life's mission of saving and rescuing others.

Perhaps the lesson learned from Moshe is that the real secret to saving the world is to be concerned with the plight of the individual in one's own vicinity, whether friend or stranger, and be ready to come to his aid even at one's own peril. When we act with care and compassion to those around us, and interest ourselves in their welfare, the world will truly be a better place.

Have a wonderful Shabbos!

Rabbi Menachem Winter

TABLE TALK

POINT TO PONDER

Pharaoh heard about this matter (Moshe killing the Egyptian) and sought to kill Moshe, so Moshe fled from before Pharaoh... (2:15)

Pharaoh handed Moshe to the executioner, but the sword did not work, since Moshe's neck turned into marble... (Rashi)

Then Hashem said to him (Moshe), "Who makes a mouth for man, or who makes one dumb..." (4:11)

Who made Pharaoh dumb, that he was unable to enforce his command that you be killed for killing the Egyptian? And who made the officers deaf, so they did not hear the initial command to kill you? (Rashi)

Was Moshe saved because of the hearing loss of the officers, or because of his neck's miraculous change to marble? Was he taken to be executed or not?

PARSHA RIDDLE

Where is shna'im mikra v'echod targum - reviewing the pesukim twice and the targum once - hinted to in this parsha?

Please see next week's issue for the answer.

Last issue's riddle:

And Yisrael bowed towards the head of the bed (47:31). Which halachos are derived from this posuk?

Answer: Since the Shechina rests on the bed of the ill person, one must be careful how they conduct themselves around an ill person (i.e. one cannot sit on the head of the bed of an ill person...).

TIMELESS WISDOM

And he saw an Egyptian man striking a Hebrew man... (2:11)

A Rav was visiting a city and was staying at the home of a community member. As they were walking home from shul, the host complained to the Rav about his older son who was becoming lax in Torah observance.

After kiddush, as the family went to wash, the Rav noticed the younger brother wash incorrectly. "Come, I will show you how to wash" the Rav told him. The host interjected, "Do not bother, he is still young. When he gets older he will know how to do it properly. There is no need to bother him and trouble yourself now."

As the meal progressed, the little boy fidgeted, as all little boys do, and eventually spilled some of his food. The host got very upset, "How many times do I have to tell you to sit nicely?" The Rav bit his tongue, as he wanted to say "Do not bother, he is still young, when he gets older he will know how to eat properly."

But now the Rav understood the cause for the older son's lax Torah observance. When the main concern of the father is mundane matters, and Torah and halacha do not concern him as much, then the latter will also be of lesser concern to the children.

A person can be defined through seeing what angers him.

KIDS KORNER

WHO AM I?

#1 WHO AM I ?

1. I protected Moshe.
2. Moshe could not harm me.
3. Don't confuse me with a hurricane.
4. Bnai Yisrael are compared to me.

#2 WHO AM I ?

1. I swallowed Moshe.
2. I was from a staff.
3. I caused eating from the Eitz Hadaas.
4. I was also copper.

LAST ISSUE'S ANSWERS

#1 HaMaloch HaGoel (I am for "all the youth"; I am for your bed; some sing me; I am fishy business.)

#2 Shimshon (The serpent is my reference; I was a "crown"; my prayer is mentioned in this Parsha; in my blindness I killed thousands.)

CONGRATULATIONS TO:

Aharon Shields

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 Remote Control Quadcopter !



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

The next raffle will be held on January 27th.

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

JOIN RABBI GROSSMAN'S MONEY MATTERS CHOSHEN MISHPAT KOLLEL AS THEY CONTINUE WITH THE EXCITING TOPIC OF ONA'AH AND MEKACH TA'US - OVERCHARGING AND MISTAKEN PURCHASES. LEARN TOPICS IN MONETARY LAW UNDER THE GUIDANCE OF AN EXPERT! COME TO HEAR BI-WEEKLY CHABURAS FROM RABBI GROSSMAN.

JOIN THE TWO-NIGHT OR FOUR-NIGHT A WEEK TRACK WITH SEPARATE CURRICULA. 8:45 - 9:45, M-TH.

FOR MORE INFO, OR TO FIND A CHAVRUSA, CONTACT RABBI ZAKEM AT YZAKEM@GWCKOLLEL.ORG.