



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.

There is to be found a Medrash in the beginning of Exodus that reveals the high level cabinet meeting between Pharaoh, King of Egypt, and his primary advisors, Job, Jethro, and Bilaam. Pharaoh expresses his imagined fears that the Jewish people will one day become a fifth column threatening the very rule of Egypt. His plan is to incrementally engage the Jews in civil service until they become slaves of Egypt. When Jethro heard Pharaoh's plan, he was so distressed that he fled Egypt. Bilaam was in full support of the plan and Job was silent.

The Medrash tells us that Jethro was rewarded from Above to become a true convert to Judaism, and father in-law to Moses. Bilaam was killed by the Jews years later. Job was punished with a life of terrible pain and affliction. The Rabbis commented, we well understand the fate of Jethro and Bilaam. However, Job is an enigma. Wherein did he falter? To object would be death. To the contrary, his silence is commendable; it registered a measure of disapproval. The Rabbis answer, true, politically he did well, however, how does one hear that an entire people without guilt and fault are to be enslaved? At the least, there has to be a visceral reaction, "oy!" no less than a sharp pointed pin piercing one's skin. How can one not cry out? How, Job, do you contain yourself? Human feelings require reaction to pain and anguish of another.

Shabbat Shalom,

Rabbi Kalman Winter

TABLE TALK

POINT TO PONDER

Please speak in the ears of the people: Let each man request of his fellow...silver vessels and gold vessels (11:2).

The Bnei Yisrael carried out the word of Moshe, they requested from the Egyptians silver vessels, gold vessels and garments (12:35).

Bnei Yisrael were commanded to ask the Egyptians for vessels. Why did they ask for garments? Furthermore, Bnei Yisrael merited the redemption because they kept their dress code, and did not adopt the Egyptian one. Why would they now want their clothing?

PARSHA RIDDLE

How does the name of the parsha hint at its content?

Please see next week's issue for the answer.

Last issue's riddle:

What is the Torah's secret recipe to achieve calmness and peace?

Answer: Learning Torah (Ohr HaChaim 6:9)

TIMELESS WISDOM

And it shall be for you a sign on your arm, and a reminder between your eyes... (13:9)

Rav Aryeh Levin was invited to speak to a class of boys who were becoming Bar Mitzvah. He related the following story:

When the British were in control of Eretz Yisrael, they convicted two innocent Jews and sentenced them to death. The men were dressed in red robes and brought into their cell, awaiting their death in a couple of hours. Only Rav Levin was allowed to go speak with them.

"Rav Levin, could you help us put on Tefillin for the last time in our lives?" the Jews asked. Rav Levin helped them, and as they pulled off their red hoods and rolled up their red sleeves, they began to cry. One can only imagine their feelings as they put on Tefillin for their last time.

Rav Levin told the Bar Mitzvah boys, "Now, my dear boys, because Hashem has allocated for us more life than a couple hours, are we supposed to be so insensitive towards putting on Tefillin?"

KIDS KORNER

WHO AM I?

#1 WHO AM I ?

1. I threatened Pharaoh.
2. I am called a makka.
3. I cause fasting.
4. I cause redeeming.

#2 WHO AM I ?

1. I am square, but not for your credit card.
2. I have you tied up.
3. I contained Hashem's name.
4. I am for between the eyes.

LAST ISSUE'S ANSWERS

#1 Sh'chin/Boils (I caused people to be boiling in the winter; I was from ash; I was for man and animal; I blossomed but I am not a flower.)

#2 Makas Choshech/Darkness (I was in Mitzrayim; I was for the splitting of the sea; I was at a standstill; I allowed snooping.)

CONGRATULATIONS TO:

Mendel Wasserman

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!

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