



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 2011.***

This week's Parsha, Naso, is the largest in the entire Torah, consisting of one hundred seventy-six verses. Its length is due primarily to the account of the offerings that each tribe brought to the dedication of the Sanctuary. Upon observation, you will note that, while each offering was identical, each tribe is listed with the name of its designated leader and its offering detailed in full measure. This is in contrast to mentioning their identical offerings once and just attaching the names of each tribe and leader that participated.

The Rabbis draw a profound lesson from the fact that the Torah enumerates each tribe's offering separately, despite the fact that they were identical. We learn that the tribes' motivation with their offerings was exclusively to bring pleasure to G-d. And while it was well within their ingenuity and creativity to fashion individual offerings, far different in nature and composition from their brother tribes, they desired above all to find common ground that would engender neither jealousy nor pride and thus divide the tribes. They understood and sought to demonstrate that the most beautiful and meaningful offering before G-d is that His children below are joined as one with respect and love for one another. Their own individuality would be secondary to the greater good of creating a harmoniously integrated people, brimming with respect for one another. For this reason, G-d accentuates His appreciation and recognition of their kindness and sensitivity, detailing each tribe's offering in full measure.

There is so much to ponder and learn from this beautiful Torah event. It established the basis for G-d's giving of the Torah; only when G-d saw that we encamped at the foot of Sinai, as one person with one heart, did He determine that this was the moment of transmittal.

***Have a wonderful Shabbos,
Rabbi Menachem Winter***

TABLE TALK

POINTS TO PONDER

Their (the family of Kehos) countings according to their families were two thousand, seven hundred and fifty (4:36).

This is proof to the fact that the Aron killed some of the family of Kehos, who had the job of carrying the Aron. When they were counted from a month old their number was over eight thousand. Yet when they counted them from the age of thirty there were only two thousand... (while the numbers for the families of Gershon and Merori were closer between the two countings) (Bamidbar Rabba 6:7).

At this point the Aron had not been carried anywhere. Why would it have killed anyone from the family of Kehos yet?

PARSHA RIDDLE

This parsha has 176 pesukim. What other parts of Torah have 176?

Please see next week's issue for the answer.

Last week's riddle:

Besides Matan Torah, what other two famous things happened on Har Sinai?

Answer: The Medrash (1:8) says that Har Sinai is really Har HaMoriah, so Akeidas Yitzchok and the Beis HaMikdash were on Har Sinai.

HATORAH V'HAMITZVAH

HALACHA INSIGHTS FROM THE PARSHA

In *Parshas Naso* (6:11), a Nazarite is commanded to bring a sin-offering. The Talmud (*Bava Kama* 91b) cites an explanation that this is to atone for the sin of having (unnecessarily) deprived himself of the enjoyment of wine and concludes that *a fortiori* is more general self-deprivation (such as fasting – Rashi) sinful, and adduces this as a source for the prohibition against self-harm.

As we noted last year, the primary modern locus of discussion of this prohibition is cosmetic (plastic) surgery. There are, however, a number of other contexts in which it is invoked:

- Dieting: R. Moshe Feinstein (*Shut. Igros Moshe CM* 2:65) takes for granted that dieting for health reasons, to prevent illness, is permitted, and he also permits dieting for the sake of beauty insofar as this consists merely of abstention from "sweet things." He leans toward stringency, however, with regard to dieting that entails actual hunger, although he concedes a basis for leniency even there. R. Shlomo Zalman Auerbach is inclined to allow dieting (apparently without distinction) even for the sake of beauty (*Nishmas Avraham [Second Expanded Edition] CM* p. 113).
- Ear piercing: R. Ovadia Yosef (*Shut. Yabia Omer Chelek* 8 CM #12) notes the common custom of piercing girls' ears, which he adduces in support of the general principle that the prohibition of self-harm does not apply to constructive actions, including those taken in the service of beauty.
- Donating blood: R. Feinstein (*Shut. Igros Moshe CM* 1:103) is uncertain whether donating blood to a blood bank for potential future use (as opposed to donating to a specific individual currently in need) is permitted. [He is uncertain whether the receipt of compensation is sufficient justification.] R. Auerbach allows blood donation in order to save a Jewish life (*Nishmas Avraham YD* p. 532. Cf. *Shut. Shevet Ha'Levi* 5:219, *Shut. Tzitz Eliezer* 16:23).

PRESENTED BY
RABBI YITZHAK GROSSMAN, ROSH CHABURAH

KIDS KORNER

WHO AM I?

#1 WHO AM I?

1. For some I am daily.
2. For most I am on Holy days.
3. Yet for all I am weekly.
4. Triple Blessing.

#2 WHO AM I?

1. We were lazy.
2. We were the first.
3. We were the police force.
4. We are all mentioned separately.

Last Week's Answers:

#1 Shloshes Yimei Hagbolo (I am for three; I am on the fence; get ready; purify yourselves.)

#2 Rus (I equal my Kabbalas Mitzvos; conversion is learned from me; both of my husbands died; my grandfather was stabbed in his stomach.)

Congratulations to
Akiva Biberfeld
for answering last week's questions correctly!

All children
13 and under
who answer a
"Who Am I?"
correctly will
be entered
into a raffle to



The next
raffle is
June 21st.

Visit gwckollel.org to submit your answers.

Answer as many as you can – each correct answer will entitle you to another raffle ticket and increase your chances of winning.

KOLLEL BULLETIN BOARD

Summer Kollel

Join GWCK for the Youth Summer Kollel!

Monday - Thursday, June 20th - July 7th

Learning, Prizes, and Refreshments!

For boys in grades 5 - 9

For more info, contact Rabbi Zakem at yzakem@gwckollel.org.