



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.*

This week's Torah portion of Beha'aloscha speaks of the travels and transportation of the Mishkan, the Tabernacle, in the desert. In Chapter 9, verse 23, the Torah records "by the word of G-d they encamped, and by the word of G-d they traveled." When the Cloud of Glory above the Mishkan ascended, it was the signal to the nation of Israel to prepare to travel forth in the desert. The Mishkan was then taken apart to be reassembled at their next encampment.

The Talmud teaches us that the primary 39 classifications of prohibited work on the Sabbath are derived from the 39 different means of work and creativity that were employed in the construction of the Tabernacle. One of those prohibited activities was "sosair," destroying. The travels in the desert required the Kohanim (Priests) to take the Mishkan apart at intervals, akin to destroying. The Talmud asks the following question. The prohibition of "destroying" is violated only when, for example, an edifice is destroyed with the intention to rebuild it in the same location. But the tabernacle was disassembled in one location, and always reconstructed in a second location. How could we derive the prohibition of destroying, as we define it, from the Tabernacle? The Talmud responds with the above-quoted verse, "by the word of G-d they encamped, and by the word of G-d they rested," and so it was considered as one location.

The great scholar, Rabbi Naftali Trop, explains that this response serves as a life lesson for our eternal relationship with our Creator. When an infant is in the arms and embrace of its mother, if it were to be asked to describe its location, traveling from location to location, the infant would simply say, "I am in my mother's arms." The precise location would be secondary as its place is in its mother's embrace. So too, when our nation traveled in the desert, within the Clouds of Glory and embraced by the presence of G-d, our people constantly lived by "the word of G-d they encamped, and by the word of G-d they traveled." They were always in G-d's embrace as the infant is within his mother's embrace when she carries him. G-d carried us forth for forty years in the desert and He was our place, our geographical location. Indeed, the Tabernacle was truly assembled and disassembled in one and the same location, always.

We too, must always feel in all of our life's travels and journeys that we are guided, sustained, and nurtured by G-d's benevolent hand and grace. Our challenge in life is to foster through our observance of Torah and mitzvos that relationship, which will permit us to feel the closeness and intimacy of His presence.

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

## TABLE TALK

### POINTS TO PONDER

#### ***We remember the fish that nochal / we ate in Mitzrayim free of charge... (11:5)***

The word “nochal” is the future tense of the word “ochal” / to eat. If Bnai Yisrael were referring to the food they ate in Mitzrayim, the posuk should have used the past tense “ochalnu.”

Why does the Torah use the word “nochal,” which implies we will eat in the future?

### PARSHA RIDDLE

#### ***What is the similarity between the Menora and the eigel?***

Please see next week's issue for the answer.

#### **Last week's riddle:**

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

**Answer:** Daf in Maseches Bava Basra and pesukim in the 119<sup>th</sup> perek in Tehillim.

## HATORAH V'HAMITZVAH

### HALACHA INSIGHTS FROM THE PARSHA

*Parashas Be'Ha'alosecha* concludes with the episode of Miriam and Aharon “speaking against” Moshe and the consequent affliction of the former with *tzara'as*. The Torah later (*Devarim* 24:9) adjures us to “Remember what Hashem thy G-d did unto Miriam.” The Ramban (*Sefer Ha'Mitzvos* #7), following the *Sifri*, understands this as a commandment to verbally recount Miriam's conduct and its consequences so that we should avoid the sin of *lashon ha'ra* (evil speech, i.e., slander) and its punishment. The *Chofetz Chaim* (*Esin* #1) declares that one who speaks *lashon ha'ra* perforce violates this commandment, as at best he must have forgotten Miriam's punishment at the time of the offense, and if he remembered it and nevertheless sinned, he has the far worse status of an apostate with regard to the prohibition of *lashon ha'ra*. Elsewhere (*Shemiras Ha'Lashon Sha'ar Ha'Tevunah* #12), the *Chofetz Chaim* explains that although we observe that people do speak *lashon ha'ra* subsequent to, and even during (!) their remembrance of Miriam, this is due to the merely superficial nature of their remembrance.

The Rambam (*Hilchos Tumas Tzara'as* 16:10) points out that Miriam was punished despite the presence of numerous factors mitigating the severity of her *lashon ha'ra*: she was his older sister, had raised him, and had risked herself to save him from the sea; she had not actually criticized him, but merely erroneously equated him with other prophets (failing to recognize the uniqueness of his prophecy); and Moshe had not minded her comments. We can therefore infer the egregiousness of the sin of the “villains and fools” who speak arrant slander.

PRESENTED BY  
RABBI YITZHAK GROSSMAN, ROSH CHABURAH

## KIDS KORNER

### WHO AM I?

#### #1 WHO AM I?

1. We are seven yet we caused eight.
2. The middle was our direction.
3. We were needed, but not really.
4. Replacement of dedicating

#### #2 WHO AM I?

1. For my brother I was happy.
2. For myself and my Shevet I was sad.
3. For my children I was silent.
4. For others I was peaceful.

#### Last Week's Answers:

**#1 Birkas Kohanim** (For some I am daily; for most I am on Holy days; yet for all I am weekly; triple blessing.)

**#2 Nes'im** (We were lazy; we were the first; we were the police force; we are all mentioned separately.)

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

Win a super prize

Stay tuned for the next raffle prize!

Congratulations to  
**Daniel Levine**  
for winning the latest raffle!

Visit [gwckollel.org](http://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.

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