



The Greater Washington Community Kollel

SHABBOS DELIGHTS

TORAH MINUTE

IN MEMORY OF RABBI KALMAN WINTER ZT"l

The Little Things

Presented by Rabbi Yonatan Zakem, Kollel Scholar and Director of Community Outreach

"You shall bestow some of your majesty upon [Yehoshua] so that all the congregation of the children of Israel will take heed" (27:20).

Upon receiving the final verdict that he would not be allowed to lead the Jewish nation into the Promised Land, Moshe immediately turns his attention to addressing the need of a qualified successor. Moshe beseeches G-d to appoint a leader who will care for the nation and lead them in the same path as he himself had led them throughout his lifetime. G-d responds by instructing Moshe to place his hands upon Yehoshua, thereby anointing him as the nation's next leader.

The Talmud (Bava Basra 75a) has an intriguing comment to this verse. "The elders of that generation remarked: 'The face of Moshe is like the sun, and the face of Yehoshua is like the moon. Woe for that embarrassment, and woe for that disgrace.'" What does it mean that Moshe and Yehoshua were like the sun and the moon, and why exactly was this embarrassing for the elders?

The *Chida* explains that the elders were bemoaning their own failure. In what merit was Yehoshua chosen as the second leader of the Jewish people? Our Sages tell us that it was because he never left the study hall, remaining there to arrange the benches and spread the carpets. The elders saw such menial responsibilities as beneath them; they were, after all, singularly focused on learning from their mentor, Moshe. What they misunderstood is that it was this very dedication to Moshe and his teachings, even to the extent of matters as commonplace as keeping the study hall in order, that led to Yehoshua being the most qualified to reflect the light of Moshe, just as the moon reflects the light of the sun. Recognizing their missed opportunity, the elders lamented the embarrassment which they had felt to take up the task of maintaining the study hall, realizing that they would now be students of the younger Yehoshua.

Often it is tempting to see only the glorious and stimulating achievements in life as having value. But the true hallmark of a great person is the dedication to do what is necessary on all levels, whether it be celebrated or mundane. May we recognize the value of serving G-d and helping others even in the pedestrian parts of life.

Have a wonderful Shabbos!

TABLE TALK

POINTS TO PONDER

The name of the slain Israelite man who was slain with the Midianite woman was Zimri son of Salu... the name of the slain Midianite woman was Kozbi daughter of Zur... (25:14-15)

Behold! A man of Bnei Yisrael came and brought a Midianite woman near... (Balak 25:6)

Why does the Torah wait to tell us the names of the sinners until after they were killed?

PARSHA RIDDLE

What two connections are there between the letter "vav" and Eliyahu HaNavi?

Please see next week's issue for the answer.

Last week's riddle:

What is the connection between Bilaam and Korach?

Answer: Both had a mouth created for them on Friday of creation.

HATORAH V'HAMITZVAH

HALACHA INSIGHTS FROM THE PARSHA

Parshas Pinchas contains the admonitions against doing "servile work" (*melech avodah*) on the various Yamim Tovim, as well as the commandment to "afflict your souls" on Yom Kippur. The prohibition against doing work on Yom Tov covers work that is not for food preparation (*ochel nefesh*) or other Yom Tov needs, and the injunction of affliction refers to various forms of physical deprivation, primarily eating and drinking.

The smoking of tobacco is a behavioral category regarding which there has been considerable debate over both whether it is included in the type of "work" (as a form of combustion) prohibited on Yom Tov as well as whether it violates the affliction imperative. [On Yom Kippur it is certainly forbidden as work, as there is no exception for food preparation in its prohibition of work; the question is with regard to other fast days on which there is no work prohibition.] Some authorities maintain that smoking is permitted on Yom Tov, as it can be considered a form of *ochel nefesh*, or at the very least a legitimate Yom Tov need, due to its pleasurable and health benefits (it was believed to aid the digestion and function as a laxative, and to either stimulate or suppress the appetite - see *Shut. Darkei Noam OC #9, Penei Yehoshua Shabbos 39b*). Others argue that the habit of smoking is insufficiently universal to meet the standard of "equal for everyone" (*shaveh lechol nefesh*) necessary to permit work on Yom Tov (*Korban Nesanel Beizah* end of ch. 2), and that insofar as one does permit it on Yom Tov, considering it *ochel nefesh*, one must perforce prohibit it on fast days (*Shiarei Keneses Ha'Gedolah OC siman 567 BY os 3*). Some maintain that on Tishah B'Av in particular it is inappropriate since it is a distraction from the day's mourning (*Darkei Noam*), or even prohibited outright, since even washing and anointing oneself are prohibited, and for smokers, smoking is the greatest pleasure there is (*Keneses Ha'Gedolah*)!

PRESENTED BY
RABBI YITZHAK GROSSMAN, ROSH CHABURAH

KIDS KORNER

WHO AM I?

#1 WHO AM I?

1. Sometimes I mean three times.
2. 'Only if you can walk'
3. On me you see to be seen.
4. I was in last week and this week.

#2 WHO AM I?

1. This week I am a 'nun'.
2. In a few weeks I will be a 'ayin'.
3. The 'daled' ensures no idolatry.
4. Near the end I am a 'hey'.

Last Week's Answers:

#1 Ma Tovu (I was the opposite; I praised openings; you begin with me; I caused anger.)

#2 Bilaam (I was the response to Moshe; I only had one eye; I knew the moment; my words are your prayer.)

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

POPCORN
POPPER



*The next
raffle is
September 6th.*

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

IN CONJUNCTION WITH YOUNG ISRAEL SHOMRAI EMUNAH, GREATER WASHINGTON COMMUNITY KOLLEL INVITES MEN AND WOMEN OF THE COMMUNITY TO JOIN US FOR A LECTURE

BY RABBI YITZHAK GROSSMAN:

EMPATHY WITH ANIMALS:

BALANCING HUMAN NEEDS AGAINST ANIMAL COMFORT

THIS JEWISH ETHICS LECTURE TAKES PLACE THIS SUNDAY, JULY 31ST, 9:30 AM AT YOUNG ISRAEL SHOMRAI EMUNAH.