



# Greater Washington Community Kollel

# SHABBOS DELIGHTS

## TORAH MINUTE

IN MEMORY OF RABBI KALMAN WINTER ZT" L

### A Gift To Hashem

Presented by Rabbi Yisrael Glassberg  
*Director of Kollel Alumni*

The great Patriarchs of the Jewish people, Avraham, Yitzchak, and Yaakov, achieved fantastic spiritual heights during their lifetimes. Our Rabbis teach us that each and every Jew has the ability to achieve this same level of righteousness and indeed must ask themselves throughout their lifetime, "When will my actions reach the level of the actions of my Forefathers?" In this week's Parsha, we learn about Yaakov Avinu's attitude and behavior toward his material possessions and the eternal lesson available for us all to emulate.

Immediately prior to the spiritual struggle between Yaakov and the angel of Esav, Rashi explains that Yaakov returned to his encampment to retrieve small vessels that were left behind. We know that Yaakov had servants and children that could have gone back to gather these items. Why did he feel compelled to recover the items himself?

As part of our daily prayers we say in the Shema, "And you shall love Hashem with all of your heart, all of your soul, and all of your possessions." The Baal Haturim explains that "with all of your heart" refers to Avraham, "with all of your soul" refers to Yitzchak, and "with all of your possessions" refers to Yaakov. Yaakov took the gifts that Hashem bestowed upon him and promised to tithe them upon returning safely home to his father's house. His material wealth was an opportunity to demonstrate his dedication and gratitude to Hashem for His constant protection. Therefore, he did not see the items he sought to retrieve as irrelevant, inexpensive jugs, but rather precious items that had the potential to be consecrated to the Almighty. That is why Yaakov personally went back to retrieve the forgotten jugs. His personal involvement was an eternal demonstration of the importance of recognizing each and every possibility of sanctifying Hashem's name, no matter how trivial it might seem.

In today's society, we are fortunate to have a variety of material possessions. According to a 2014 study, the average person owns up to 300,000 items! The lesson that Yaakov teaches us is to recognize these *berachos* and find ways to use these objects to serve Hashem. If we do that, we can model our behavior after that of our holy forefathers and answer that eternal call to follow in their footsteps.

***Have a wonderful Shabbos!***

## TABLE TALK

### POINT TO PONDER

**Then he (the angel) said, "Let me go, for dawn has broken" (32:27).**

The angel told Yaakov, "I am an angel and from the day I was created until today I have not sung praise to Hashem until this morning" (Chulin 91b).

What prompted the angel to sing praise to Hashem this day? Rav Chaim Volozhiner explained that an angel is not permitted to sing praise to Hashem until he has fulfilled his mission. Since the angel of Esav had fulfilled his task, he was able to sing praise to Hashem.

In truth, the angel lost his struggle with Yaakov (32:29). If so, why is it considered as if he had fulfilled his mission?

### PARSHA RIDDLE

**Two issues involving Yaakov concerned him regarding his ability to overcome Esav. What are they?**

Please see next week's issue for the answer.

**Last week's riddle:**

**Where is a source in this week's parsha that one should not give more than a fifth of his possessions to tzedakah?**

**Answer: Aser Aasrenu (28:22).** The word 'Aser' means a tenth and 'Aasrenu' also means a tenth; which is equivalent to one fifth (Baal HaTurim).

## HATORAH V'HAMITZVAH

### HALACHA INSIGHTS FROM THE PARSHA

At the end of *parashas Vayishlach*, the Torah repeatedly identifies Esav with the nation of Edom. Later in the Torah, Jews are prohibited from marrying Edomites, until "the third generation" [counting from their conversion] (*Devarim* 29:8-9).

The Rambam asserts that subsequent to the Assyrian king Sennacherib's "shuffling" and "mixing" of "all the nations," Edom, as well as the other nations whose members Jews are prohibited to marry, no longer exist as identifiable peoples, and the marriage prohibitions have therefore become moot: "When a convert converts anywhere in contemporary times, whether he is an Edomite, an Egyptian, an Ammonite, a Moabite, a Kushite, or any other nation, both males and females are permitted to enter the congregation immediately" (*Hilchos Isurei Biah* 12:25, and see *Shulchan Aruch EH* 4:10).

Some medieval authorities are unsure of whether the "shuffling" of Sennacherib extended to Edom. The idea that Edom may have been an exception is based on various Talmudic passages identifying Rome of the Talmudic period (many centuries subsequent to Sennacherib), oppressors of the Jews and destroyers of the Second Temple, with Edom (*Sefer Yerei'im Amud Arayos* #43). R. Yaakov Emden goes even further, ruling that the prohibition against marrying Edomites extends to Italian converts, since at least some Italians are actual (genealogical) descendants of Edom, and even those who are not may nevertheless fall under the prohibition insofar as they have assimilated and adopted the Edomite identity (*Shut. She'eilas Yaavetz* 1:46). Similarly, R. Meshulam Roth suggests that perhaps we should not accept German converts, due to various traditional associations of Germany with Edom and Rome (*Shut. Kol Mevasser* 2:42).

Despite the above, the normative consensus seems to follow the Rambam that the prohibition against marrying Edomites is currently obsolete (see *Shut. Shevet Ha'Levi* 5:149).

PRESENTED BY  
RABBI YITZHAK GROSSMAN, ROSH CHABURAH

## KIDS KORNER

### WHO AM I?

#### #1 WHO AM I?

1. I am equal to the "double's" purchase.
2. We caused division.
3. We were the 'Red army'.
4. We instilled fear.

#### #2 WHO AM I?

1. I am not a sin for you rather a ....
2. I am a limping prohibition.
3. I was an angelic grip.
4. The sun was my remedy.

#### Last Week's Answers:

#1 *Rachel* (I was for the second seven; I am grabby; I am the weeper; I am 'on the road'.)

#2 *Leah* (I was for 'last week'; I was a weeper; I had half; I was soft eyed.)

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

Win a  
**JUMBO  
BANANAGRAMS  
GAME!**



THE NEXT  
RAFFLE WILL BE  
JANUARY 25<sup>TH</sup>!

*Congratulations to Yaffa Sax  
and others for answering last week's questions correctly!*

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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