



Greater Washington Community Kollel
**SHABBOS
 DELIGHTS**

TORAH MINUTE

IN MEMORY OF RABBI KALMAN WINTER ZT"L

Taking the Lead

Presented by Rabbi Yonatan Zakem

Kollel Scholar and Director of Community Outreach

After being given the verdict that he will not be entering into the Land of Israel, Moshe, in the finest display of selfless devotion to his people, beseeches Hashem to appoint a suitable and qualified replacement. Moshe asks for the selection of a man “who will go out and come in before the people,” and “who will take them out and bring them in.” In this way, “they will not be like a flock without a shepherd.” Hashem responds by instructing Moshe to confer his authority upon his disciple Yehoshua (27:16-17).

In these few short verses, Moshe describes his vision for the future leader of the Jewish people. What is the central importance of that which the leader will go out and in before the people, such that it should be the sole qualification which Moshe describes for his successor?

The Talmud in Sotah 49b makes a cryptic statement about the generation in which the Messiah will arrive. “The face of the generation will be like the face of a dog.” Rav Yisroel Salanter explained this to be a condemnation of the “face,” the leadership of that generation. Just like a dog pulling on a leash appears to be leading, but continuously turns its head to ensure that it is going in the direction that its owner wants, so too the leadership will appear to be in charge, but in fact they will be constantly recalibrating to follow the attitude of their constituents. A true leader recognizes what is the right direction for his community, and leads them in that direction despite the opposition.

Accordingly, we could understand the criteria for leadership set down by Moshe. “He should go out before the people” means that he should truly be charting the course for the nation, and thereby “take them out” from where they are and “bring them in” to where they need to be, irrespective of the fashions of the day. In this way, the nation will not be leaderless, like a flock without a shepherd, wandering at its own whims.

We should all merit having the fortitude to hold fast to the proper path, and to persist despite the opposition and dissension which we may face.

Wishing you a Good Shabbos!

TABLE TALK

POINT TO PONDER

Hashem spoke to Moshe, saying: "Pinchas... turned back my wrath from upon Bnei Yisrael, when he zealously avenged My vengeance among them... Therefore, say: Behold! I give him My covenant of peace" (25:10-12).

By law, Pinchas should receive his reward (Midrash).

Every mitzva is rewarded. So why does Rashi mention that 'by law' Pinchas received his reward? Is there a particular law regarding one who sanctifies Hashem's Name which states that one receives a reward?

Furthermore, why does the Torah only record the reward of Pinchas's act without restating the act itself?

PARSHA RIDDLE

Is it possible for a living person to become tamei even though he didn't come in contact with anything tamei?

Please see next week's issue for the answer.

Last week's riddle:

What connection is there between Bilaam and Yisro?

Answer: Both were members in Pharaoh's cabinet who attended meetings to decide how to destroy Bnei Yisrael.

HATORAH V'HAMITZVAH

HALACHA INSIGHTS FROM THE PARSHA

In *Parashas Pinchas* (27:1-11), Zelophehad's daughters Mahlah, Noah, Hoglah, Milcah and Tirzah petition Moses for the right to inherit their father's estate, since he had no son. [Chazal explain that they apparently knew that had he had a son, they would have had no claim to the inheritance, and they infer from this that the daughters were "wise" (Rashi).] Hashem responded by endorsing their claim and setting forth the rules of inheritance, which, as interpreted and elaborated upon by Chazal, are as follows (see *Yad Ha'Chazakah*, beginning of *Hilchos Nachalos*):

If the decedent has living sons, the estate is divided equally between them, with the eldest son (the *bechor*) receiving a double share. If he has daughters but no sons, the estate is divided equally among the daughters. If he has neither sons nor daughters but his father is still alive, the father inherits the estate.

If the decedent had sons (or no sons but daughters) who predeceased him, the sons' (or daughters') sons (or daughters, if any of the sons or daughters had no sons) inherit their fathers' (or mothers') shares of the estate on a *per stirpes* basis, with the share of each of the decedent's children divided equally among his children. [E.g., if the decedent had two sons, both of whom predeceased him, and one of the sons had three sons, and the other, one daughter, each of the three grandsons inherits one sixth of the estate, and the granddaughter inherits half the estate.]

The same procedure is applied iteratively to the subsequent heirs: if the decedent has no surviving issue and so his father is next in line to inherit, and the father has predeceased the decedent, then the father's sons (or daughters, if the father had no sons) inherit the estate. If the father's children have predeceased him, the estate passes to their children, as above. If the father has no surviving issue, then his father (the decedent's grandfather) inherits the estate, and if he is no longer living, his heirs (as determined by the above rules) inherit the estate. This procedure is repeated until surviving heirs are found.

An exception to the above is a married woman, whose husband inherits her estate, taking precedence over all her other heirs.

PRESENTED BY

RABBI YITZHAK GROSSMAN, ROSH CHABURAH

KIDS KORNER

WHO AM I?

#1 WHO AM I?

1. Sometimes I mean three times.
2. From me you know '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. I was a hands-on job.
2. I was because of staying in the tent.
3. I was a moonlike event.
4. I was in the front of everyone.

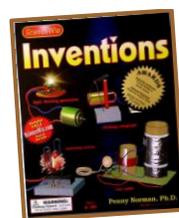
Last Week's Answers:

#1 Donkey (I am Mashiach's ride; I was also Avraham's; I am like Yissachar; I got hit three yomim tovim.)

#2 'Ma Tovv' (I was curse replacement; I was privately caused; daily recital; I am not mother Tovv.)

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

Win a



Science Inventions Kit!

Congratulations to Yoseph Graham and others for answering last week's questions correctly!

Answer as many as you can.
Each correct answer will entitle you to another raffle ticket and increase your chances of winning!
Visit gwckollel.org to submit your answers.

THE NEXT
RAFFLE WILL BE
AUGUST 22nd

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