



Greater Washington Community Kollel SHABBOS DELIGHTS

TORAH MINUTE

IN MEMORY OF RABBI KALMAN WINTER ZT" L

A Humbling Experience

Presented by Rabbi Hillel Shaps

Kollel Scholar and Director of Special Projects

Among the *mitzvos* that are unique to a Jewish king is the commandment to write a Torah scroll, which he must take with him at all times and from which he must study. The Torah enumerates a number of positive outcomes from this activity, including "so that his heart does not become haughty over his brethren." (17:20) How does Torah study prevent one from becoming arrogant?

Based upon a verse in Koheles (Ecclesiastes), the Ksav Sofer explains: King Solomon states, "I said I would become wise, but it is distant from me." (7:23) King Solomon is relating that the more he studied Torah and the more learned, the more he became aware of the depth and expanse of the Torah and how far removed he was from understanding it in its entirety.

In *Nefesh Hachaim*, Rav Chaim of Volozhin develops this same idea with the following parable: A man is invited to view the king's treasure room. Upon entering, he is amazed by the abundant jewels and treasures he observes. As he is about to leave, he notices a small door at the other end of the room and asks to see what is on the other side. Behind the door is another treasure room, containing even greater riches. Once again, he notices a door at the far end of this second treasure room. He finds that it leads to yet another treasure room...and the situation repeats itself. So it is with Torah study. At first, we only perceive a single layer; we believe that, with a quick glance around, we have observed all that there is to see. When we begin learning, however, we quickly discover that there is a deeper level of knowledge to reach. And once we attain that degree of insight, yet another door opens - revealing an even more profound understanding of the word of G-d.

Each time we study Torah, we are opening ourselves up to this humbling experience, which brings us face to face with the wisdom of the Master of the world. We are reminded of the vastness of His knowledge and wisdom compared with our own. It is this powerful encounter that humbles even a king. How fortunate are we to have been entrusted with this tremendous gift!

Wishing you a Good Shabbos!

TABLE TALK

POINT TO PONDER

There shall not be for the Kohanim, the Leviim, a portion and an inheritance with Bnai Yisroel in Eretz Yisroel. (18, 1)

In the second bracha of birchas hamazon, it is mentioned that Hashem gave Eretz Yisroel to Bnai Yisroel as an inheritance. Tosfos (Brochos 20b) asks, since Kohanim did not receive a portion in Eretz Yisroel, they should not be obligated to recite birchas hamazon?

Why doesn't Tosfos answer that since the Kohanim inherited the Arei Migrash (Maasei 35, 2), they did have land in Eretz Yisroel?

PARSHA RIDDLE

...and they shall judge the people with righteous judgment. (16, 18)

Why don't judges recite a bracha when judging a case, just as we recite a bracha when we fulfill a mitzva?

Please see next week's issue for the answer.

Last week's riddle:

"Hashem took you out from Mitzrayim at night" (16:1).

Bnei Yisrael left during the day (Bo 12:41). Why does the posuk say they left at night?

Answer: The redemption began at night.

HATORAH V'HAMITZVAH

HALACHA INSIGHTS FROM THE PARSHA

Parashas Shoftim opens with the commandment to appoint judges: "Judges and officers shalt thou make thee in all thy gates, which Hashem thy G-d giveth thee, throughout thy tribes: and they shall judge the people with just judgment."

There is considerable debate among *halachic* authorities over whether this commandment is limited to the Land of Israel (as per the Biblical phrase "which Hashem thy G-d giveth thee" - see *Ramban ibid.*), or applies even in the Diaspora, and whether it is still in force in contemporary times (see the commentary of R. Yerucham Fishel Perlow to the *Sefer Ha'Mitzvos* of R. Saadia Gaon p. 212; *Shut. Tzitz Eliezer* 15:69). Some explain that while the commandment does indeed extend to the Diaspora, its scope in the Land of Israel is more extensive, requiring judges in every city, whereas in the Diaspora the appointments may be on a "regional" basis (see *Ramban ibid.*; *Rambam Hilchos Shoftim* 1:2 and *Radvaz, Kesef Mishnah, Lechem Mishnah* and other commentaries thereto). Some later authorities assert that even insofar as the commandment may not be in force in the Diaspora on the Biblical level, it remains binding there on the Rabbinic level (*Bach CM siman 1; Urim Ve'Tumim siman 1 Urim #1*).

R. Avraham David Warman (the Buczaczer Rav - *Kesef Kadashim ibid.*) makes the innovative proposal that included in our commandment is the imperative to appoint *halachic* decisors to rule on ritual matters ("*morei hora'ah*"). He suggests that this is even more essential than the establishment of a judiciary, since in civil disputes, the disputants themselves will necessarily seek out appropriate rabbinic arbitration, as it is crucial to their interests to do so, but with regard to ritual law, it is quite plausible that without an explicit injunction, people will not take it upon themselves to establish a proper system. Nevertheless, he is reluctant to assert such a radical idea without basis in the earlier authorities.

PRESENTED BY
RABBI YITZHAK GROSSMAN, ROSH CHABURAH

KIDS KORNER

WHO AM I?

#1 WHO AM I?

1. I was requested.
2. Frightening
3. Torah carrier
4. I am not salt.

#2 WHO AM I?

1. I am for an accident.
2. Follow the signs.
3. I save you.
4. Mick Lot

Last Week's Answers:

#1 *The Brochos given on Har Grizim* (To observe; my place was not greasy; I was given toward the sunset; I am not near your Moreh.)

#2 *Shemitta* (I am now; no harvest; 354 Shabbos; Holy Fruit.)

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

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

Win a super prize

Congratulations to Akiva Kugler for winning the latest raffle prize! Stay tuned for details on the next raffle date and prize.

Visit gwckollel.org to submit your answers.

KOLLEL BULLETIN BOARD

Come learn at one of the many exciting Kollel classes resuming this week !

Sunday Kollel Brunch and Learn resumes this Sunday, Aug 27 at 9:30am at YISE, 1132 Arcola Ave .

CLAS (Community Learning at Shomrai) resumes this Monday, Aug 28 at 8:15pm (new time) at YISE, 1132 Arcola Ave.

Elul Semester at the Kollel begins this Monday, Aug 28 at 8:15pm at GWCK, 10900 Lockwood Dr.

Visit our website gwckollel.org for all the details !