



Greater Washington Community Kollel SHABBOS DELIGHTS

TORAH MINUTE

IN MEMORY OF RABBI KALMAN WINTER ZT"L

Presented by Rabbi Menachem Winter, Rosh Kollel

From our Archives

As Yaakov and his twin brother grow into young adulthood, their respective character begins to emerge. Eisav is described as a "hunter" and "a man of the field." In contrast, Yaakov is described as a "wholesome man," as someone who is occupied in sedulous study. One day, Eisav returns from a hunting expedition and is tired and hungry. Seeing Yaakov preparing a lentil stew, he demands it from his brother. Yaakov agrees on the condition that Eisav forfeit to him his rightful birthright (as the elder of the twins) to perform the future Temple service. Eisav agrees to the arrangement and Yaakov serves him the lentils and bread. The Torah concludes the narrative by sharply criticizing Eisav, stating that "Eisav spurned the birthright."

Why did Eisav agree to relinquish his rights to perform the divine service? Rashi in his commentary explains that Eisav was concerned about the great responsibility it entailed. There were many laws and procedures, and their contravention could be punishable by death! Daunted by the awesomeness of the task, Eisav willingly transferred it to his brother. Seemingly, this rationale is very reasonable and justifiable. Why does the Torah condemn Eisav for his decision?

Rabbi Moshe Feinstein explains that given the unique and special opportunity afforded Eisav, he should have steeled himself to the risks and challenges associated with it. Losing heart in the face of potential difficulties and relinquishing rights to something so precious testified to Eisav's lack of regard for the treasured Temple service.

We are often presented with opportunities to assume responsibility. It may be to head or help a charitable organization, assist a local synagogue, or spearhead an effort to meet the spiritual or physical needs of our fellow brothers and sisters. Invariably, we will be confronted with all sorts of challenges. Let us make sure to fortify ourselves and not allow these potential difficulties to stand in the way of serving G-d and our fellows. As we pray in synagogue Shabbos morning: "and all who are involved faithfully in the needs of the community, may the Holy One, Blessed is He, pay their reward and remove sickness, heal them, and forgive their sins. And may He send blessing and success to all their endeavors, along with all Israel, their brethren, and let us say: Amen."

Wishing you a Good Shabbos!

TABLE TALK

POINT TO PONDER

“Now sharpen, if you please, your gear... and catch game for me” (27:3).

From that which is ownerless and not from which is stolen (Rashi).

Until now, we don't find that Yitzchok warned Esav not to bring stolen food. Why did Yitzchok find it necessary, in this instance specifically, to warn Esav not to bring stolen food? If Yitzchok was concerned that Esav was stealing, he should have reprimanded him long ago regarding this behavior!

PARSHA RIDDLE

Why should I be bereaved of both of you on the same day? (27:45)

How is this prophecy fulfilled?

Please see next week's issue for the answer.

Last week's riddle:

What was Eliezer's other identity?

Answer: Og

HATORAH V'HAMITZVAH

HALACHA INSIGHTS FROM THE PARSHA

Parashas Toldos contains the episode of Esav's sale of his 'birthright' to Yaakov. The narrative does not define this 'birthright'; the commentaries suggest several (not mutually exclusive) possibilities:

The privilege of performing the Divine sacrificial service (*Rashi*).

Social preeminence: the right to be honored and served by one's siblings (*Ibn Ezra* and *Ramban*).

The right to a double share of the father's inheritance (*Ibn Ezra*, *Ramban*, *Rashbam*, and cf. *Sotah* 13a).

An objection raised against the third approach, that the sale was of Esav's patrimony, is the problem of *davar shelo ba le'olam* ("something that does not yet exist"); the *halachah* does not allow the sale of property that one does not yet own, so an heir cannot sell property that he stands to inherit prior to the death of the current owner of the property. How, then, could Esav sell his birthright to Yaakov during their father Yitzhak's life? Several answers are proposed by the commentators:

- Some infer from this episode that the defect of *davar shelo ba le'olam* can be cured by the seller taking an oath [to abide by the terms of the sale] (*Rosh*, cited by his son the *Tur* in his commentary to our episode, and Mar Yosef Gaon, in a responsum (#4) published at the end of *Shut. Ha'Rif* (Bilgoraj)). Others, however, strongly reject this idea (*Shut. Ha'Rivash* #328).
- The *Rivash* (*ibid.*) suggests that the rule that one cannot sell a *davar shelo ba le'olam* did not apply before the giving of the Torah at Sinai.
- The *Ketzos Ha'Choshen* (*siman* 278 s.k. 13) maintains that although a *davar shelo ba le'olam*, cannot be sold, it can be relinquished. I.e., a heir cannot sell his inheritance during the lifetime of its current owner, but he can relinquish any right to it, and the inheritance will then pass to the current owner's other heirs upon his death.

PRESENTED BY
RABBI YITZHAK GROSSMAN, ROSH CHABURAH

KIDS KORNER

WHO AM I?

#1 WHO AM I?

1. Dovid's resemblance.
2. Made
3. Grippped heel.
4. Hairy

#2 WHO AM I?

1. I defeat Esav.
2. "Rise up, please."
3. I sound.
4. Davening and learning

Last Week's Answers:

#1 Eliezer (I am very Ogly; don't confuse me with Damascus; Hashem helper; I meant 318 soldiers.)

#2 The miracles that occurred in Sorah's tent, and later in Rivka's. (I was the mother's; I was the wife's; cloud and light; I was doughy.)

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

Win a
LASER PEGS
HELICOPTER SET



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!

THE NEXT
RAFFLE WILL BE
DECEMBER 26th.

KOLLEL BULLETIN BOARD

Men and Women are invited to a DC Lunch & Learn with Rabbi Yitzhak Grossman
“Beyond Utilitarianism: Kidney Donation and the Trolley Problem”

Monday, Nov. 20. Noon – 12:45 pm at Morgan Lewis
Complimentary lunch served, RSVP required to info@gwckollel.org
Morgan, Lewis & Brockius, LLP, Room 231 ~ 1111 Pennsylvania Ave. NW
For more info visit gwckollel.org.