



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

The Torah summons us with the extraordinary mitzvah of *Kedoshim Tehiyu* (You shall be holy) *Ki Kadosh Ani Hashem Elokeichem* (for I, Hashem your G-d, am holy). We are enjoined to emulate G-d in the most sublime of His characteristics – holiness. It is not sufficient to merely perform the commandments and safeguard the prohibitions. We must become a nation imbued with G-d's holiness, worthy to carry His name. By entrusting us with this lofty mission, the Torah conveys to us both our prodigious spiritual potential and the expectation that it will be fully realized.

Rashi comments that the concept of *kedusha* (holiness) is rooted in setting oneself apart, particularly from immorality. Accordingly, the verse should be understood as follows: "You shall be separated from immorality just as I, Hashem, am."

The Michtav Sofer shares a novel and inspiring interpretation of this commandment, based upon Rashi's understanding of *Kedusha*. G-d is telling us that, just as He "separated" Himself from the celestial spheres and "lowered" Himself to the physical world in order to concern Himself with man and his welfare, so we too must separate ourselves from our spiritual fortresses and go forth, in order to concern ourselves with the well-being of our brothers and sisters.

What a timely message! In a generation in which we are seeing the decimating effects of the secularization of our people, we are charged not to be content with the strength of our own communities, but to concern ourselves with the welfare of all our fellow brethren. We must go forth and reach out to them – to engage and inspire, to open our homes and our hearts, and to share the beauty of our special heritage.

Wishing you a Good Shabbos!

TABLE TALK

POINT TO PONDER

You shall not stand aside while your fellow's blood is being shed... (19 16)

To see him dying and you can save him. (Rashi)

How do we know that a doctor is allowed to heal? Because the verse says (Mishpotim 21, 19) "...he shall provide healing". (Brachos 8a)

Since one is obligated to save another person, why is it necessary to have a special verse to teach that a doctor is permitted to heal?

PARSHA RIDDLE

On which day of the week are people the weakest?

Please see next week's issue for the answer.

Last week's riddle:

Where in this parsha is our math challenged?

Answer: The Kohen locks up a metzora twice for seven days each, which totals thirteen days (not fourteen).

HATORAH V'HAMITZVAH

HALACHA INSIGHTS FROM THE PARSHA

In Parashas Acharei Mos (18:5), the Torah instructs: "You shall observe My decrees and My laws, which man shall carry out and by which he shall live – I am Hashem." The Talmud (Yoma 85b) understands the phrase "by which he shall live" to teach us that the saving of human life overrides almost all mitzvos (with the exceptions of idolatry, murder, and sexual immorality - Pesachim 25a-b).

The medieval authorities disagree over whether choosing to give up one's life rather than violate a mitzvah is an act of piety (Ran Shabbas 22a in Rif pagination) or a grave sin (Yad Ha'Chazakah Hilchos Yesodei Ha'Torah 5:4). Even the former opinion, however, is limited to where someone is attempting to compel a Jew to violate a commandment, in which case refusal to do so constitutes a sanctification of Hashem's name and is therefore praiseworthy. In a situation where illness necessitates the desecration of the Sabbath or eating on Yom Kippur to preserve life, the overwhelming consensus is that it is absolutely forbidden to be stringent at the expense of one's life (Issur Ve'Heter Ha'Aruch 60:7-8; Shut. Radvaz 3:885 [444], but see Shut. Avnei Nezer CM #193).

In addition to the three cardinal sins mentioned earlier, the Talmud (Sotah 10b) declares that "It is better (Heb. "noach lo") for a person to hurl himself into a fiery furnace than to cause his fellow man extreme public humiliation". Halachic authorities disagree over whether this is intended literally or is merely meant to emphasize the enormity of causing humiliation (Shut. Binyan Tzion #172-73; Shut. Minchas Shlomo tinyana #133; Shut. Benei Banim 1:41; R. Osher Weiss, "Noach Lo Le'Adam ... (5771)").

Halachic authorities also disagree over whether it is permitted to steal or destroy another's property, or infringe upon his dignity, in order to save one's life. The consensus is that it is permitted, as per the general rule that (almost) any mitzvah may be violated to save life (Shut. Maharam Shik YD #347-48; Shut. Igros Moshe YD 1:214), although there is a minority opinion that forbids it, particularly if one will be unable to make restitution (Shut. Binyan Tzion #167-71, and cf. Shut. Tzitz Eliezer 4:14:4; Shut. Yabia Omer 4:CM:6:2).

PRESENTED BY
RABBI YITZHAK GROSSMAN, ROSH CHABURAH

KIDS KORNER

WHO AM I?

#1 WHO AM I?

1. We are double.
2. Totally similar.
3. Our ends are different.
4. One would make the red white.

#2 WHO AM I?

1. I am like Purim.
2. I am fast.
3. I am on the tenth.
4. Clean slate.

Last Week's Answers:

#1 A Bama altar (I am an "altar" nate choice, I am for outside, I was sometimes permitted, sometimes not, I am not the previous president)

#2 Tzoraas (I could make you homeless, I could destroy your house, I could get you shaved, I could ruin your clothes.)

All children 13 and under who answer a "Who Am I?" correctly will be entered into a raffle to **WIN a**
ETTG Tempo Remote Control Speed Boat



Congratulations to Ethan Blitz and others on answering last week's questions correctly!

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
May 15th.

KOLLEL BULLETIN BOARD

Join the GWCK for a DC Lunch & Learn with Rabbi Yitzhak Grossman.

"The Duty to Save a Life: Scope and Parameters"

Monday, April 30, Noon – 12:45 pm at Morgan Lewis.

Complimentary lunch served, RSVP required to info@gwckollel.org. Please see flyer at www.gwckollel.org for more info.

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