



The Greater Washington Community Kollel

# SHABBOS DELIGHTS

## TORAH MINUTE

IN MEMORY OF RABBI KALMAN WINTER ZT"l

### A Taste of the World to Come

**Presented by Rabbi Menachem Winter, Rosh Kollel**

From our archives

Alarmed at the advancing nation of Israel, Balak, King of Moab, commissions the powerful sorcerer and prophet Bilaam to employ his craft to halt the nation's steady march toward the Land of Israel. Bilaam, eager to enrich himself in service to Balak, agrees to misuse his G-d given powers to cast curses at the Jewish people and thus render them debilitated and susceptible to military defeat. With his nefarious plot in hand, Bilaam travels to Moab. G-d repeatedly intervenes, transforming Bilaam's curses into blessings and thus demonstrating to all His great love for His people.

The Midrash and Talmud develop a rich composite of Bilaam's complex character. Of superior intelligence and endowed with G-dly gifts — including prophecy itself — Bilaam, through his venal pursuit of wealth and honor, nonetheless displayed his base character and covetous nature. The Mishnah in Avos (5:22) depicts Bilaam as the personification of jealousy, arrogance, and avarice. We thus have an image of a man blessed with the greatest spiritual gifts, yet unable to emancipate himself from the spell of his impulses and desires.

Perhaps the greatest window into Bilaam's nature is his plea, "May my soul die the death of the Righteous, and may my end be like his." (23:10) The Chofetz Chaim explains: Bilaam pined for the "death of the righteous" — eternity and the World to Come — but eschewed the "life of the righteous" with its attendant duties and obligations. Bilaam desired a life of perceived freedom and indulgence while coveting the eternal reward set aside for the truly righteous.

When we exert self-control over our impulses and fill our lives with the beauty of Torah and mitzvos — in contrast to Bilaam's false choice between the goodness of this world and the Next World — we suffuse our days with meaning and satisfaction. By connecting with G-d, we are able to taste and experience a measure of the great joy and bliss of the World to Come, here and now.

**Wishing you a Good Shabbos!**

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## TABLE TALK

### Point to Ponder

**How can I curse? - Hashem has not cursed. How can I anger? - Hashem is not angry. (23, 8)**

*My only power is that I know to discern the moment that Hashem gets angry, and He has not gotten angry these days.... (Rashi)*

*What could Bilaam say to curse Bnai Yisroel in the brief moment that Hashem gets angry every day? He could say kulaim (destroy them). (Tosafos Avoda Zora 4b)*

Since Bilaam would not be able to add the name of the person/nation who he wished to curse because it would be longer than the allotted time, how would his words be detrimental?

### Parsha Riddle

**What was Zimri's real name?**

Please see next week's issue for the answer.

**Last week's riddle:**

**How many Para Adumas have there been?**

**Answer: 9**

## HATORAH V'HAMITZVAH

### HALACHA INSIGHTS FROM THE PARSHA

*In parashas Balak, the Torah relates that Balaam "saw Israel dwelling according to its tribes", and he subsequently exclaimed "How goodly are your tents, O Jacob, your dwelling places, O Israel" (24:2,5). The Talmud explains that Balaam saw that the entrances to their tents were not directly opposite each other, and he exclaimed that "These [people] are worthy that the Divine presence shall dwell among them" (Bava Basra 60a).*

*The Talmud introduces this exegesis as the source of a Mishnaic ruling prohibiting the arrangement of doors opposite [others'] doors, and windows opposite [other's] windows. Some authorities explain that this prohibition (at least with respect to doors) is not merely a civil matter between neighbors, which they can choose to waive, but is rather an absolute, Biblically mandated restriction in the interest of modesty, and so the neighbors' unconcern, or any prevailing custom to disregard the issue do not matter (Yad Remah ibid. #280; Shut. Ha'Rashba II:268; Chazon Ish ibid. 12:4; but see also Sema siman 154 s.k. 10).*

*Contemporary authorities note that this halachah is widely flouted, and they wonder why (Shut. Mishkenos Yisrael end of #34). Some suggest that only doors that are precisely opposite one another (an uncommon situation) are prohibited, or that since our doors generally open into hallways (which are not used for private activities), the prohibition does not apply (Pischei Choshen Nezikin Ch. 14 n. 4).*

*Beyond this specific prohibition derived from parashas Balak, there is a general halachic concern for hezek re'iyah ("damage" caused by sight), which is often understood as establishing a right to personal privacy. [Shulchan Aruch Ha'Rav, Nizkei Mammon #11 rules that it is prohibited to view another's affairs and activities without his permission "for perhaps he does not wish that they should know of his activities and affairs."] The classic discussion deals mostly with doors, windows, and fences, but a contemporary responsum considers the flying of drones equipped with cameras over another's property. The conclusion is that this is forbidden, at least with regard to premises around which the owners have erected fences for the sake of privacy (Chevel Nachalaso 19:39).*

PRESENTED BY  
RABBI YITZHAK GROSSMAN, ROSH CHABURAH

## KIDS KORNER

### Who Am I?

#### #1 WHO AM I?

1. I could tell the time.
2. My words came out the opposite.
3. I was like Moshe.
4. I got rebuked.

#### #2 WHO AM I?

1. I came from a kohen.
2. I became a kohen.
3. I didn't spare the spear.
4. I got peace.

#### Last Week's Answers

**#1 Para Adumah** (I care for my child, Unemployed, Burnt, One tone.)

**#2 Para Adumah** (I confuse you, I do opposites at once, I fooled the wisest, I am not read but...)

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

*Win a  
Ripstik!*



Congratulations to Yehuda Schwartz and others on 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!**

THE NEXT  
RAFFLE WILL  
BE July 31<sup>st</sup>.

## KOLLEL BULLETIN BOARD

Exciting  
Learning!

**GWCK Teen/Junior Summer Kollel continues this week!!**

Raffles!

Join any time!

Prizes!

**Mon-Thurs 7:30pm-8:15pm: Grades 5-6 Boys**

Refreshments!

**Mon-Thurs 8:15pm-9:00pm: Grades 7-9 Boys**