



The Greater Washington Community Kollel

SHABBOS DELIGHTS

TORAH MINUTE

IN MEMORY OF RABBI KALMAN WINTER ZT"l

Going the Extra Mile

Presented by Rabbi Yisrael Glassberg, Director of Kollel Alumni

In this week's Parsha we read about the discord between Yosef and his brothers. Although Yosef's brothers judged him to be deserving of death, Reuven, the eldest of the twelve tribes, convinces them to throw Yosef into a pit instead. The Torah relates that Reuven suggested this idea with the best of intentions, planning to save Yosef and ultimately return him to their father (37:22).

The Midrash comments that had Reuven known that his actions would be written in the Torah and recorded for posterity, he would have placed Yosef on his shoulders and brought him immediately to Yaakov. The Midrash recounts other examples of how someone's actions would have changed had they known that those actions would be recorded in the Torah. For example, the Torah describes the reaction of Aharon, Moshe's brother, to Moshe's appointment as the nation's designated leader as follows, "and he (Aharon) will see you and be happy in his heart." The Midrash comments that had Aharon known that his reaction would be recorded, he would have gone out to greet Moshe with drums and dance. A third example can be found in the book of Rus where the verse discusses Boaz's generous donation of roasted grain to Rus, the convert. The Midrash states that had Boaz known that that his actions would be recorded in the Prophets, he would have given her fine meat.

The commentaries explain that although Reuven, Aharon, and Boaz demonstrated care, sensitivity and respect for their fellow Jew, there was an even deeper and loftier level that could have been achieved. The Midrash is reminding us that there is always room for additional growth, be it in our daily interactions or in our spiritual endeavors. We are challenged not to be complacent, but to pursue an even more profound and sublime connection with man and G-d. One way to achieve this is to ask ourselves: What would we do if we knew our actions would be recorded in the Torah? May Hashem give us the awareness and courage to recognize and attain our true potential.

Wishing you a Good Shabbos!

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TABLE TALK

Point to Ponder

And for the miracles, and for the salvation, and for the mighty deeds, and for the victories, and for the battles which You performed... (Al Hanisim)

Why do we thank Hashem for the battles? Although we achieved victory, wouldn't it have been better if we did not have the war at all?

Parsha Riddle

Why do some have the custom to distribute money to the children on Chanukah?

Please see next week's issue for the answer.

Last week's riddle:

What does this week's haftora have in common with the haftora of Yom Kippur by Mincha?

Answer: They are the only two haftoras that are a complete book of Tanach.

HATORAH V'HAMITZVAH

HALACHA INSIGHTS FROM THE PARSHA

In parshas Vayeishev, the Torah relates: "Then there was an opportune day when he [Yosef] entered the house to do his work – no man of the household staff being there in the house – that she [Potiphar's wife] caught hold of him by his garment, saying, "Lie with me!" Some of our Sages maintain that Yosef actually came dangerously close to sinning, and only vanquished his evil inclination at the very last moment. (Sotah 36b, Bereishis Rabah 87:7) The Biblical text seems to emphasize that the confrontation was triggered by the fact that they were completely alone, and the halachah indeed prohibits such seclusion (yichud), for precisely this reason. The Chasam Sofer actually raises the question of how the righteous Joseph could have violated the prohibition of yichud, and he goes so far as to suggest that this apparent infraction was what allowed Potiphar to believe his wife's accusation of Yosef, whose reputation had been heretofore impeccable. Potiphar saw that Yosef had at the very least improperly secluded himself with his wife, and he therefore believed the full accusation against him. (Drashos Chasam Sofer, Chanukah [5]564. His justification of Yosef's conduct is beyond the scope of this column.)

Since the prohibition of yichud is motivated by a concern for improper interaction between the secluded individuals, there are a variety of leniencies in circumstances where they are unlikely to act improperly, particularly where they are afraid of being interrupted and discovered. A comprehensive discussion of these exceptions and their precise scope and details is beyond the scope of this column, but a couple of basic examples follow:

- A married woman whose husband is in the same city as her is beyond suspicion, since she is presumptively afraid of her husband. Many authorities understand this to mean that she is afraid of his discovery of her infidelity. (Shulchan Aruch EH 22:8; Pischei Teshuvah ibid. s.k. 7; Shut. Igros Moshe EH 4:65:7; Shut. Tzitz Eliezer 6:40:4-6)
- Yichud does not apply in a house whose door is open to a public domain. (SA ibid. 9, PT ibid. 8, TE ibid. 11-12, IM ibid. 2,4-5,9)

PRESENTED BY

RABBI YITZHAK GROSSMAN, ROSH CHABURAH

KIDS KORNER

Who Am I?

#1 WHO AM I?

1. Add and cover embarrassment.
2. I am flame.
3. I protected my mother.
4. I lost my coat twice.

#2 WHO AM I?

1. I am not a Sukkah, but above 20 is too high.
2. I cannot be circular.
3. I am similar one in the Beis Hamikdash.
4. I am to be seen.

Last Week's Answers

#1 Shechem (ben Chamor) (I came from a donkey, but I am not one, I am shoulder, but not below the neck, I caused circumcision, I am a city.)

#2 Eliphaz (I robbed Yaakov, You must wipe out my son, I was Esav's first, I had Taiman.)

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

Win a
Mibro
Really
Rad Robot



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 18.

KOLLEL BULLETIN BOARD

GWCK Chanukah Celebration

Monday, Dec 3 – 7:00pm

@ GWCK, 10900 Lockwood Dr.

Divrei Torah from Rav Ahron Lopiansky! Hot Refreshments! Live Music! Children's Entertainment by Abradcadabra Alex! Much more!

