



The 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 continues to delineate the manifestations and procedures of the supernatural "disease" of Tzaraas. Not limited to appearing on a person's body, the Tzaraas could appear on homes and clothing. Depending on the situation, the Tzaraas could necessitate their destruction.

Rashi, based on a Medrash, explains that the Tzaraas and subsequent demolition of the home was a Divine gift. The Canaanites, perceiving the Jewish nation's imminent conquest of the Land of Israel, hid their treasures in the walls of their houses in order to conceal them from the eventual victors. G-d, in His love for His people, afflicted the houses with Tzaraas, ensuring that the valuables would be revealed upon their demolition. This explanation, however, seems to contradict the Talmud (Yoma 11b) that attributes the affliction visited upon the house to the selfish behavior of the owner. The owner had demonstrated an unwillingness to share his wealth and good fortune with others. He was therefore punished by his possessions contracting Tzaraas, thus reminding him of the true source of his blessing, and his obligation to help and support the less fortunate.

How could we resolve this contradiction? Was the Tzaraas a blessing or a punishment?

The author of the Moshav Zekeinim answers as follows: True, the Tzaraas came to punish the owner for his self-centered conduct. G-d, however, is demonstrating through the found treasures that His punishments are not rooted in hatred or retribution, but out of a desire to foster a close and loving relationship. The punishments are intended to inspire contemplation of one's behavior, leading him to reflect on his selfishness and to make amends to man and G-d. Through this process, he will once again attain G-d's grace and intimacy - the ultimate treasure.

In our lives, many of us encounter pain and suffering. We on this earth cannot know the reason and cause for this sorrow. We can be certain, however, that all that transpires emanates from G-d's deepest love for us.

Wishing you a Good Shabbos!

SPONSOR

To sponsor an issue of Shabbos Delights, please contact info@gwckollel.org

TABLE TALK

Point to Ponder

The Kohen shall command, and for the person being purified there shall be taken two live, pure birds... (14, 4)

Since the affliction of tzaraas arrived because of malicious talk, which is an act of verbal twittering, the requirement for its purification is that one must sacrifice birds that constantly tweet with chirping. (Rashi).

One who is a tamei zav must bring birds as a korban (15, 29). If one must bring chattering birds because of chatter, why does a zav or zavah bring birds for a korban?

Parsha Riddle

What food will be muktza next Shabbos?

Please see next week's issue for the answer.

Last week's riddle:

When can one bug be forbidden to eat, and an identical bug be permitted to eat?

Answer: A bug that hatched inside a fruit and never came out is not included in the prohibition of eating bugs. (Yoreh Deah 84, 4) (Consult your Rav for final ruling)

HATORAH V'HAMITZVAH

HALACHA INSIGHTS FROM THE PARSHA

In parashas Metzora (15:25-28), the Torah commands a woman whose "blood flows for many days outside of her period of separation": "If she ceases her flow, she must count seven days for herself, and afterward she can be purified." Some understand that she must count the days verbally, similar to the counting of the omer (Hadar Zekeinim 25:8; Shelah Shaar Ha'Osiot Os Kuf [p. 72b]), but others disagree (Shut. Maharam b. Baruch (defus Prague) #292; Shut. Radvaz 4:1102; Shut. Noda BeYehudah tinyana YD #123). Common practice follows the latter view. All agree that a blessing is not recited.

From the words "for herself", the Talmud derives the rule that "a menstruating woman can count [the days] for herself, [and that she is trusted to testify that she did so]" (Kesubos 72a). This is the basis for the general rule that: "The Torah relies completely upon the wife to inform her husband when her period is expected and when it began, when she accomplished a successful hefseik taharah, that she had completed the seven "clean" days and was tovel properly." (The Laws of Niddah, Vol. 1 pp. 97-98) Some even understand that this is the source of the general rule that "one witness is deemed credible with regard to prohibitions" (Tosafos Yevamos 88a s.v. bari li and Gittin 2b s.v. eid echad [1]). Others explain that this rule is actually self-evident: "Were this not the case, no one could eat his friend's food and no one could rely upon the members of his household." (Rashi Yevamos and Gittin ibid.)

The consensus is that "one witness is deemed credible with regard to prohibitions" even where his testimony serves his own interests (Yad Hachazakah Hilchos Shechitah 10:14; Shut. Rivash #498 (and cf. #500); Shut. Chikrei Lev YD (2) #196), although some authorities apparently disagree (Shut. Nachalas David #26 pp. 29a-b), particularly with regard to testimony to the death of a woman's husband for the purpose of allowing her to remarry (Shut. Masas Binyamin #98. Cf. Shut. Chesed Leavraham kama EH #10; Pischei Teshuvah EH siman 17 s.k. 19).

PRESENTED BY
RABBI YITZHAK GROSSMAN, ROSH CHABURAH

KIDS KORNER

Who Am I?

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

Win a Roller Coaster Challenge Game!



#1 WHO AM I?

1. Fast for salvation.
2. I make you finish.
3. See yum – Go eat!
4. I am for the first and dad.

#2 WHO AM I?

1. I start the burning.
2. I am a check but can't be cashed.
3. No torches allowed.
4. I am a night activity.

Last Week's Answers

#1 Se'eis (Form of tzaraas) (I don't say, I 'says', I am not a load, I whiten your hair, My center may be healthy.)

#2 Tzaraas (I can start a treasure hunt, Visit the barber, Wash your clothes, I lock you up.)

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 7.

KOLLEL BULLETIN BOARD

LINKS

Share your passion, background, and knowledge to connect others to our rich heritage through Torah study!

LINKS is a weekly learning program that brings Jewish men and women of different backgrounds together to learn one-on-one in person. Wednesday evenings from 8:00-9:00pm at the BenderJCC.

To volunteer to be a mentor and share your knowledge and experience with someone or for more information, contact Rabbi Shaps: hshaps@linksgw.org.

For more information contact: The Greater Washington Community Kollel 10900 Lockwood Dr, Silver Spring, MD 20901 • 301.593.4260
www.gwckollel.org • Rosh Kollel Rabbi Menachem Winter - 301.213.6504 • info@gwckollel.org