



The Greater Washington Community Kollel

SHABBOS DELIGHTS

TORAH MINUTE

IN MEMORY OF RABBI KALMAN WINTER ZT" L

Something for Everyone

Presented by Rabbi Moshe Sadwin, Kollel Scholar

"Do not remove completely the corners of your field; leave them for the poor..." (23:22)

Towards the end of our Parsha, the Torah delves into the laws of the Jewish festivals. It begins by mentioning Shabbos, and then proceeds to discuss Pesach, Shavuos, Rosh Hashanah, Yom Kippur, Sukkos, and Shemini Atzeres.

In middle of listing the holidays, however, the Torah interjects a seemingly unrelated *mitzvah*. Immediately before the discussion of Rosh Hashanah and following the details regarding Shavuos, the Torah tells us the laws of Pe'ah, the commandment to leave a corner of one's field to the poor. Why does the Torah insert this law in the midst of the discussion of the festivals? (See Rashi who brings one approach.)

Perhaps the Torah is teaching us a powerful message about our attitude toward our fellow Jews. We can't possibly celebrate a holiday without taking care of the poor. Our merriment is only complete if our fellow Jews are also happy and content. The Torah therefore reminds us in the middle of the discussion of the festivals that we must be sure to attend to the needs of the less fortunate.

We are currently in the period when we mourn the loss of Rabbi Akiva's 24,000 students. The Gemara tells us that they died as a result of their not treating each other with the proper respect. The message we are to take from this mourning period is to endeavor to raise our concern for our fellow Jew.

Let us strive to lend assistance to our Jewish brothers and sisters, to feel their privation and to make their needs like our own.

Wishing you a Good Shabbos!

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TABLE TALK

Point to Ponder

The son of an Israelite woman went out... (24, 10)

Where did he come from? Rabbi Berachya answered, "He left the previous Parsha that taught that the bread used for the Lechem HaPonim was a week-old bread (when it was divided between the Kohanim). A king eats fresh bread every day; is it proper to divide cold bread that is a week old?" (Rashi)

When Jews would come to the Bais HaMikdash on Yom Tov, the Kohanim would raise the table that had the Lechem HaPonim on it, show it to and declare, "See how dear you are to Hashem." A great miracle occurred with the bread because it stayed hot and fresh for nine days - from when it was baked until it was divided. (Chagiga 26b) [One could even see steam rising from the bread (Ritva).]

How could the son of the Israelite woman claim that the Lechem HaPonim was old cold bread, when it was clearly noticeable that it was fresh, as steam was rising from it?

Parsha Riddle

For how many negative prohibitions does the Torah prescribe Malkus?

Please see next week's issue for the answer.

Last week's riddle:

You shall not eat over the blood... (19:26) Besides the prohibition to eat meat while there is blood in it, what other prohibition is derived from this verse?

Answer: The prohibition to eat before davening

HATORAH V'HAMITZVAH

HALACHA INSIGHTS FROM THE PARSHA

Parshas Emor begins with several prohibitions to which kohanim (priests of Aharonic descent) are subject, including restrictions against ritual defilement (tumah) by coming into contact with human remains and injunctions against marrying certain categories of women. Kohanim also have various privileges, including entitlement to certain forms of precedence and the receipt of various gifts from the general populace.

As we have previously discussed, contemporary kohanim generally do not possess authoritative documentation of their genealogy, and there is consequently extensive debate over whether they are fully bound by the restrictions, and entitled to the privileges, that apply to kohanim. We have previously noted several areas in which this issue arises; following are several more:

- Various authorities have suggested that the reason that the laws of tzaraas are not practiced today is due to the unreliability of our genealogical traditions regarding kohanim, since the kohein has a fundamental role in this area (see Torah Sheleimah cheilek 8 p. 258).
- Various authorities have argued that this unreliability prevents the contemporary reestablishment of the Temple service (see Drishas Tzion from p. 53; Shut. She'eilas David from p. 29), although others disagree (see Drishas Tzion ibid. and pp. 49-50, and cf. Shut. Chasam Sofer YD #236).
- Some authorities allow a contemporary kohein, under particular circumstances, to consume challah that has been separated from dough produced outside of Israel (since such challah has certain leniencies with regard to tumah - see Shulchan Aruch OC 457:2 and YD 322:5), although others maintain that this is not the custom, and one of the main rationales they offer for this is the unreliability of our genealogical traditions (Shach YD ibid. s.k. 9).
- R. Ephraim Zalman Margolios suggests that the reason for the mysterious Ashkenazic custom to perform the ritual of the priestly benedictions (nesias kapayim) only on holidays (and not daily, as Sephardim do) is that since we are not confident of the authenticity of our kohanim, we limit the performance of the ritual, since a non-kohein who performs it commits a transgression (Shut. Beis Ephraim OC #6).

PRESENTED BY

RABBI YITZHAK GROSSMAN, ROSH CHABURAH

KIDS KORNER

Who Am I?

#1 WHO AM I?

1. I can be extra.
2. I can be a lack.
3. I can be for animals.
4. I can be for people.

#2 WHO AM I?

1. I am not for ice cream.
2. A patrilineal tradition.
3. I may redeem you.
4. You give me your bread.

Last Week's Answers

#1 Honest weights (I make things fair, I am for payment processing, The firstborns prove, I am not a delay.)

#2 Standing for an elder or Torah scholar (I cause rising, I am for the old and wise, I am not for the satiated, I am nor for the beard.)

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

Win a Great Wall of China Lego 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 July 16.

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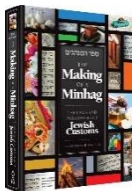
GWCK in conjunction with YISE invites men and women of the community to a lecture on:

The Making of a Minhag:

The Laws and Parameters of Jewish Customs - Part Two

Presented by Rabbi Moshe Walter,

Rabbi of Woodside Synagogue Ahavas Torah and author of The Making of a Minhag



THIS SUNDAY, May 19 at 9:30AM at YISE, 1132 Arcola Ave.