



The Greater Washington Community Kollel

SHABBOS DELIGHTS

TORAH MINUTE

IN MEMORY OF RABBI KALMAN WINTER ZT"l

Every Moment Counts

Presented by Rabbi Hillel Shaps, Kollel Scholar and Director of Special Projects

And Esav said, "Behold I am going to die. For what do I need the firstborn rights?" (25:32)

The great sage Akavia ben Mahalalel taught (Avos 3:1) that by focusing on three things one will be prevented from sinning. The second of the three that he mentions is: "And to where you are going – to a place of dirt, worms, and maggots." The commentaries explain that by focusing on the temporal nature of our bodies, we are reminded that material gain and pleasure is fleeting and when our time comes to depart this world, only the subterranean creatures will benefit from our physical fulfillment. Our souls, on the other hand, are eternal. The fulfillment that we give our souls by carrying out G-d's will and drawing closer to Him will remain forever.

The Chofetz Chaim contrasts this attitude with Esav's actions in this week's Parsha. Esav declares that he has no need for the firstborn rights – despite the potential for spiritual growth that is latent in this position of leadership – for he is going to die. Better to enjoy the lentil soup that Yaakov is cooking while there is still time. From here, says the Chofetz Chaim, you see a clear contrast between the righteous and the wicked. For the righteous, the notion of one's eventual death propels one to improve and take advantage of every breathing moment to draw close to G-d. For the wicked, it reminds them: "Eat and drink for tomorrow we will die" (Isaiah 22:13).

Later in Pirkei Avos (4:21) our Sages teach us: "This world is like a lobby before the World-to-Come. Prepare yourself in the lobby so you are ready to enter the banquet hall." May we all merit to use our time well, engage in spiritual pursuits, and draw ever closer to G-d to create the most fulfilling relationship with Him – a relationship that will last eternally.

Wishing you a Good Shabbos!

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TABLE TALK

Point to Ponder

So now, my son, heed my voice to which I command you. (27, 8)

Even though what I am telling you to do is going to involve geneivas da'as (misleading someone), still heed my voice. Meaning: besides for the obligation to listen to one's mother, she was also a prophetess, and one is obligated to listen to a prophet/ess (Devarim 18:15). Therefore, Rivka said, "heed my voice." As I wrote previously (Lech Lecha 16: 5-6), one must listen to a prophet, even to transgress a command of the Torah, if it is a one time occurrence. (Ohr HaChaim)

Why isn't Rivka counted among the seven prophetesses in the Gemara Megilla 14a?

Parsha Riddle

Which two people in Sefer Breishis were defined when spelling their name backwards?

Please see next week's issue for the answer.

Last week's riddle:

What was the name of Lot's wife?

Answer: Pirkei D'Rebbi Eliezer (25) says her name was Idis. However, the Radal quotes sources, including the Baal Haturim, which say that the text is wrong and should read Iris.

HATORAH V'HAMITZVAH

HALACHA INSIGHTS FROM THE PARSHA

In Parashas Toldos (25:27), Esav is described as "one who knows trapping, a man of the field," as opposed to his brother Yaakov, "a wholesome man, abiding in tents." We have previously noted the position of R. Yechezkel Landau that recreational hunting is deeply un-Jewish: the only individuals the Torah describes as hunters are Nimrod and Esav, "and this is not the way of the descendants of Avraham, Yitzchak, and Yaakov" (Shut. Noda Be'Yehudah 2:YD:10). This is also the view of R. Shimshon Morpurgo, who urges people to

Raise their eyes from a distance, and look to the rock from which you were hewn, our father Yaakov, a wholesome man, abiding in tents, and why pursue futility and become futile, to seek out the profession of his wicked brother, one who knows trapping, a man of the field? (Shut. Shemesh Tzedakah YD:18)

In addition to its general cruelty and un-Jewishness, various authorities have raised a number of specific objections to the pastime:

- Tzaar baalei chaim – the prohibition against harming animals.
- Bal tashchis – the prohibition against wasteful destruction (Shemesh Tzedakah ibid., but see Noda Be'Yehudah ibid. who rejects the application of these two technical prohibitions to hunting).
- The prohibition against deliberately rendering an animal non-kosher.
- The prohibition against doing business with non-kosher foodstuffs (insofar as the animals are rendered non-kosher and sold to non-Jews - Shemesh Tzedakah ibid.).
- The prohibition against self-endangerment (insofar as hunting is a dangerous activity - Noda Be'Yehudah ibid., although he grants a dispensation for professional, as opposed to recreational, hunting).
- Moshav leitzim – the Torah's disapproval of "sitting in the session of scorners" and "standing in the path of the sinful" (from Psalms 1:1 and Avodah Zarah 18b – Or Zarua Shabbas 83:17, Shut. Beis David #66, but see Pri Megadim OC:316 Eishel #5 who suggests that this prohibition as well is limited to recreational, as opposed to professional, hunting).

Despite all the foregoing concerns, there are nevertheless some sources that suggest that hunting is an innocent pastime (Avi Ha'Ezri cited in Tur YD:297 – see Beis David ibid., although Avi Ha'Ezri may be referring to professional hunting, which as we have seen is less objectionable).

PRESENTED BY

RABBI YITZHAK GROSSMAN, ROSH CHABURAH

KIDS KORNER

Who Am I?

#1 WHO AM I?

1. I kicked for idols.
2. I caused the missing Aleph.
3. I was complete.
4. I got another name because of my menu choice.

#2 WHO AM I?

1. My father is not "the father of the king."
2. The first was my double.
3. I found one hundred.
4. I established the "Offering" prayer.

Last Week's Answers

#1 Chayei Sara (the years of Sara) (We equal Achashverosh's kingdom, We were all good, The bind ended us, I am the name of the title now.)

#2 Cave of Machpeila (I have four sets, I was four hundred, I am in the city of four, I am double.)

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

WIN a DIXIT Game



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 Dec 3.

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