



The Greater Washington Community Kollel

SHABBOS DELIGHTS

TORAH MINUTE

IN MEMORY OF RABBI KALMAN WINTER ZT"l

To the Greatest Lengths

Presented by Rabbi Moshe Sadwin, Kollel Adjunct

"We will give you this one, too, for the work which you will do for me for another seven years. And Yaakov did so." (29:27-28)

After fleeing his brother Esav's wrath, Yaakov arrives at the home of his uncle, Lavan. Lavan promises Yaakov that he can marry Lavan's daughter, Rachel, in exchange for seven years of labor. At the end of the seven years, Lavan tricks Yaakov and switches Leah for Rachel. He then tells Yaakov that if he agrees to work another seven years, then he may marry Rachel. The Torah records that Yaakov agreed and worked the additional seven years for Rachel.

Why did Yaakov agree to this second arrangement without any protest? Couldn't he have made the claim that the original seven years were for Rachel, not Leah, and that he had a right to marry Rachel now without any further payment?

Rav Dovid Feinstein suggests that Yaakov was motivated by his great sensitivity for the feelings of others. He knew that if he insisted on his right to marry Rachel without further payment, Leah's self-esteem would have been shattered. She would see that her husband was willing to work seven years for her sister, but nothing for her.

From here we can derive a lesson as to what lengths a person should go to avoid hurting someone else's feelings. Yaakov was willing to work an extra seven years in order to save Leah from humiliation. Certainly, in our everyday interactions we must be careful not to cause harm to others by our speech or our actions.

Wishing you a Good Shabbos!

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TABLE TALK

Point to Ponder

Leah's eyes were tender, while Rachel was beautiful... (29, 17)

Since people would say, "Rivka has two sons and Lavan has two daughter - the elder daughter (Leah) should marry the elder son (Esav) and the younger daughter (Rachel) should marry the younger son (Yaakov). - Leah was under the impression that she was destined to be in the lot of Esav." (Rashi)

And that is why she merited to have a child first. (Bava Basra 123)

...and his eleven sons... (Vayishlach 32, 23)

Where was Dinah? Yaakov hid her in a chest and closed the lid, so that Esav should not set his eyes upon her. Yaakov was punished because he withheld her from his brother, although she may have returned him to virtuous conduct. Ultimately, she fell into the hands of Shechem. (Rashi)

Why was Leah rewarded for not wanting to marry Esav, while Yaakov was punished for withholding Dina from Esav?

Parsha Riddle

The first one emerged red... so they called his name Esav. (25, 25). Besides Esav, who else was born red?

Please see next week's issue for the answer.

Last week's riddle:

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

Answer: Noach - Chein (Bereishis 6, 8), Eir - Rah (Vayeishev 38, 7)

HATORAH V'HAMITZVAH

HALACHA INSIGHTS FROM THE PARSHA

We have previously noted that parashas Vayeitzei (31:15) contains an allusion to the propriety of a father giving his daughter a dowry upon her marriage: Rachel and Leah deplore Lavan's unfatherly treatment of them by saying: "Are we not considered by him as strangers? For he has sold us and even totally consumed our money!", and Rashi explains: "Even on the occasion that it is normal for one to give a dowry to his daughters, he conducted himself toward us as strangers, for he sold us in compensation for the labor."

By the late medieval period, a custom had developed in Ashkenazic society for a father to give his daughter and son-in-law upon their marriage a "shtar yerushah," a document granting them a share of his estate upon his death. Although there is a general prohibition against altering the disposition of one's estate from the system of inheritance prescribed by the Torah (Kesubos 52b), these shtarei yerushah were justified under the same dispensation provided by the Talmud for dowries (which also would otherwise constitute violations of this prohibition), that there is an imperative to promote one's daughter's marriageability by the provision of a financial incentive to prospective husbands (Shut. Maharam Mintz #47).

Accordingly, some authorities maintain that a shtar yerushah is only acceptable when given at the time of the daughter's marriage, but not subsequently (Shut. Chasam Sofer EH 2:168; Shut. Maharsham 7:12). Others, however, allow even subsequent grants, since they still serve to promote marital harmony (Shut. Minchas Yitzchak 3:135:3), or because the anticipation of such a grant enhances the daughter's original marriageability even if an actual grant will not take place at the time of the marriage (R. Zalman Nechemia Goldberg, Techumin Volume 4).

Although the share granted to the daughter and son-in-law was historically generally only half as much as the share that each of the sons would receive (hence the common term "shtar chatzi zachar"), some authorities maintain that they may be given a share equal to that of the sons (R. Goldberg *ibid.*, and see Mishpat Hatzavaah Volume 1 p. 70), although they should not be given a greater share (Chasam Sofer *ibid.*).

PRESENTED BY
RABBI YITZHAK GROSSMAN, ROSH CHABURAH

KIDS KORNER

Who Am I?

#1 WHO AM I?

1. We were many.
2. We were one.
3. We protected.
4. We became a pillar.

#2 WHO AM I?

1. I was older.
2. I cried.
3. I had six boys.
4. I was buried in the double.

Last Week's Answers

#1 Esav (I kicked for idols, I caused the missing Aleph, I was complete, I got another name because of my menu choice.)

#2 Yitzchak (My father is not "the father of the king," The first was my double, I found one hundred, I established the "Offering" prayer.)

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

win a super prize

Congratulations to Yair S. on winning 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
Feb 11.

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GWCK Chanukah Celebration

Monday, Dec 23 - 7:00pm

@ GWCK, 10900 Lockwood Dr.



Guest Speaker! Children's Entertainment! Hot Refreshments! Live Music!