



The Greater Washington Community Kollel

SHABBOS DELIGHTS

TORAH MINUTE

IN MEMORY OF RABBI KALMAN WINTER ZT" L

Divine Will

Presented by Rabbi Moshe Sadwin, Kollel Adjunct

When Yosef reveals his identity to his brothers, the events of the past twenty-two years suddenly take on new clarity for them. They realize that Yosef's dreams of them bowing down to him were, in fact, prophetic visions and not mere fantasies.

When Yosef had originally told his brothers about his dreams, they mocked him, saying, "We shall see what will become of his dreams" (Bereishis 37:20). They then sold him into slavery to Egypt, thinking that it would certainly spell the end of his fantasies. Yet, it was precisely there in Egypt that Yosef rose to power and became the viceroy of the most powerful nation of its time –literally a world leader.

On the words, "We shall see what will become of his dreams," the Midrash relates that it was Hashem who asked rhetorically, "Whose plan will come about, Mine or yours?" The brothers intended to put Yosef in a situation where he could not rule over them. Hashem, however, had decided that Yosef should become a ruler – one way or another.

These events serve as a reminder of how powerless man is to stop the fulfillment of the Divine plan. It was Hashem's will that Yosef should rise to power and, therefore, even though the brothers thought they were doing what was necessary to prevent such an outcome, they were actually ensuring it. Hashem's master plan will always come about, and nothing can stop it.

Rav Pam points out that the miraculous survival of the Jewish people, as well, is an affirmation of this idea. We have survived all odds and outlived the world's most powerful empires and civilizations for one reason: We are Hashem's people and Hashem wishes for our continued existence. May Hashem continue to provide love and protection for us.

Wishing you a Good Shabbos!

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TABLE TALK

Point to Ponder

And Yisroel said, "There is much! My son Yosef still lives! I shall go and see him before I die." (45:28)

He (Yaakov) descended to Egypt and sojourned there. (Ki Savo 26:5)

'He descended to Egypt...forced by the word of Hashem (Haggada shel Pesach)

The first verse above seems to imply that it was Yaakov's initiative to go see Yosef. Why does the Haggada refer to that as 'forced by the word of Hashem?

Parsha Riddle

Why did Pharaoh tell Yaakov's family to settle in Goshen, and not in any other part of Egypt?

Please see next week's issue for the answer.

Last week's riddle:

What was the last Halacha that Yaakov learned with Yosef, before he was sold?

Answer: Egla Arufah (the axed heifer)

HATORAH V'HAMITZVAH

HALACHA INSIGHTS FROM THE PARSHA

In parshas Vayigash (44:32), Yehuda explains to Yosef that the reason he, more than all his brethren, is so concerned about Binyamin is that he "took responsibility (arav) for the youth from my father." This is a reference to his promise to his father that he would "personally guarantee him (e'ervenu)." The Talmud cites Yehuda's promise as one of the sources for the law that a guarantor (of a loan) is obligated to honor his commitment (Bava Basra 173b).

The doctrine of arvus has broad applicability beyond the specific context of loan guarantees – it is often interpreted as a principle similar to the Western legal principle of promissory estoppel, and invoked as a basis to obligate the breaker of a promise in reliance damages. Several examples follow:

- *Ritva explains that the obligation of an employer or employee who reneges on an agreement of employment to compensate the other party for any loss he thereby causes is based on the doctrine of arvus (Chidushei HaRitva Bava Metzia 73b).*
- *Ritva and some later authorities rule that an agent who agrees to purchase goods for his principal and fails to do so, thereby depriving the latter of the opportunity to acquire the goods at an advantageous price, is liable for the loss that he has thereby caused based on the doctrine of arvus, at least insofar as the fact of the loss is well-established (Ritva ibid.; Shut. Chasam Sofer CM 178; and cf. Nesivos HaMishpat CM siman 183 s.k. 1; Shut. Chesed LeAvraham 1:CM:49). Others, however, argue that Ritva's doctrine is far from universally accepted and should not be considered normative halachah (Nachalas Tzvi CM 292:7; Shut. Yeshuos Molcho CM 22; Imrei Binah Halvaah 39; Shut. Even Shsiah 79).*
- *Some authorities invoke the doctrine of arvus as a possible basis for holding a buyer liable for merchandise that he ordered and authorized the seller to ship to him that was lost or stolen en route, at least insofar as payment was due upon shipping rather than upon receipt of the merchandise (see Shut. Divrei Malkiel 5:221 and Shut. Teshuras Shai 2:121).*

PRESENTED BY
RABBI YITZHAK GROSSMAN, ROSH CHABURAH

KIDS KORNER

Who Am I?

#1 WHO AM I?

1. I was of mourning.
2. I did not bow.
3. I had 10 sons.
4. I am of the right.

#2 WHO AM I?

1. I was now bearded.
2. I spoke harshly.
3. I was a dreamer.
4. I was the gatherer of shame.

Last Week's Answers

#1 Chanukah Lights (I am not for benefit, I am for those returning, I am to be seen, I go up in number.)

#2 Yosef's coat (I caused a fight, I was dipped, I represent hardships, I was woolen.)

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

WIN a Fort Building Kit



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.

KOLLEL BULLETIN BOARD

Sunday Kollel Brunch & Learn @ YISE
9:30am (For men)

Choose from a variety of classes on the weekly Parsha, Navi, and Talmud

Pearls of Prayer @ YISE 8:00pm
(For men and women)
Presented by Rabbi Yonatan Zakem

GWCK offers great Sunday classes for both men and women. Start your week off right with the class that meets your interests!

Parsha Explorations @ KMS 7:15pm
(For men and women)
Presented by Rabbi Yitzhak Grossman

Potomac Programming @ YIEIP (For men) 8:15pm
On the Same Page Talmud with R. Winter or Chumash Expositions with R. Schwartz