



The Greater Washington Community Kollel

SHABBOS DELIGHTS

TORAH MINUTE

IN MEMORY OF RABBI KALMAN WINTER ZT" L

A Vision of Greatness

Presented by Rabbi Zacharia Schwartz, Kollel Adjunct

In this week's *Parsha*, Yosef finds himself stuck in Egypt, a land that epitomized immorality, fighting to resist the advances of the wife of his master, Potiphar. Indeed, *Chazal* tell us that although Yosef successfully rejected her overtures many times, Yosef finally came close to succumbing. Ultimately, Yosef triumphs over temptation and emerges a hero – *Yosef Hatzadik* (Yosef the Righteous). *Chazal* tell us that Yosef saw a vision of his father's face and that sight provided Yosef with the strength to remain virtuous.

Of course, that itself requires explanation. What was it about seeing his father that helped Yosef to overcome his challenge? One thought is that the vision reminded Yosef that he was connected to something greater and of the standard that was expected of him.

Each one of us has the ability to use this same strategy to help us through our own challenges. We are all connected to the Jewish nation and its long, noble history. Moreover, the more that we connect ourselves to something larger or greater than ourselves – e.g., a community, a mentor, etc. -- the more we are equipped to face life's tests with a healthy image of ourselves as someone who can succeed. May we all take this message to heart, and build those connections that will help us to see, and live up to, visions of greatness.

Wishing you a Good Shabbos!

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TABLE TALK

Point to Ponder

And his (Yaakov's) father (Yitzchak) cried for him. (37, 35)

Yitzchak was crying for the sorrow of his son, but he did not mourn the death of Yosef because he knew that he was alive. (Rashi)

Why didn't Hashem tell Yaakov that Yosef was alive? Since the brothers included Hashem in the cherem (excommunication) not to reveal the truth about Yosef to Yaakov. Yitzchak knew that Yosef was alive but he figured, Hashem didn't reveal the fact to Yaakov, why should I? (Rashi 37, 33)

Hashem didn't reveal the truth about Yosef because He was part of the cherem. Why would that have any implication whether Yitzchak should or should not reveal the truth about Yosef?

Parsha Riddle

What was Hashem's response to the brothers' plan to kill Yosef?

Please see next week's issue for the answer.

Last week's riddle:

A Torah scholar should have an eighth of an eighth of haughtiness. (Sotah 5a) What is the connection between the above statement of Chazal and this week's Parsha?

Answer: "An eighth of an eighth" refers to the eighth verse in the eighth parsha, "Kotontee m'kol hachasodim" / My merits have been diminished on account of the miracles You performed for me. Teaching that one cannot be haughty thinking that he deserves to be saved based on his own merits. Rather one should realize that his previous salvation may have been on account of his merits. It is that amount of haughtiness that is permissible. (Vilna Gaon)

HATORAH V'HAMITZVAH

HALACHA INSIGHTS FROM THE PARSHA

At the end of *parashas Vayeishev*, Yosef informs Pharaoh's Chamberlain of the Cupbearers and Chamberlain of the Bakers of their respective fates: the former will be restored to his post, and the latter will be executed. It is easy to understand why Yosef informed the former of his imminent good fortune, but it is less clear why he informed the latter of his impending doom.

Over the past several decades, *halachic* authorities and medical ethicists operating within a Torah framework have debated the question of whether a terminally ill patient should be informed of his diagnosis and prognosis. Some argue that he should not, since despair can be a self-fulfilling prophecy, agitating the sufferer and causing his condition to deteriorate. Additionally, prayer can always be effective, even when there is no natural possibility of recover, and a patient who is hopeless may fail to properly pray for his recovery. (*Shut. Betzeil ha'Chochmah* 2:55; R. Shlomo Aviner, *Assia* Vol. 3 pp. 336-37) Others disagree, arguing that a terminally ill patient, particularly in the case of cancer with its concomitant treatments of radiation and chemotherapy, will realize regardless that his condition is dire, and so on the contrary, in many cases the patient will likely benefit from having a clear and concrete understanding of his condition and from the ability to discuss it openly with his physicians, as opposed to being left to grapple alone with his terrors and ignorance of the exact nature of his disease. (Prof. Shimon Glick in *Assia* *ibid.* pp. 497-98; *Nishmas Avraham* (2nd edition) YD 447-48)

Earlier authorities had already tried to balance the desire to provide a gravely ill individual with the opportunity to confess his sins (*vidui*) before death with the imperative of avoiding agitating him and thereby worsening his condition. In order to avoid destroying his morale, we assure him that "Many have confessed their sins but did not die ... and in the merit of confessing your sins you will live ..." (*Tur YD siman* 338, citing Ramban) In the same vein, some authorities maintain that we only mention *vidui* to one who is near death, since were we to do so to one not near death, we would destroy his morale. (*Bach* and *Shach* *ibid.* s.k. 1)

PRESENTED BY
RABBI YITZHAK GROSSMAN, ROSH CHABURAH

KIDS KORNER

Who Am I?

#1 WHO AM I?

1. For the mavoi, I'm no good.
2. I invalidate your Sukkah.
3. I could invalidate your Chanukah lights.
4. I was for the pit.

#2 WHO AM I?

1. I resembled my father.
2. I was hated.
3. I "took away reproach."
4. I was a prayer for another.

Last Week's Answers

#1 Esav's 400 men (We were "tough," We caused a tri-response, We caused fear, We caused division.)

#2 Gid Hanashe (Sciatic Nerve) (I caused a limp, I can't be eaten, I am named for my displacement, What a nerve!)

The raffle has been postponed until after the shuls are reopened. We are still accepting entries to the raffle.

All children 13 and under who answer a "Who Am I?" correctly will be entered into a raffle to **WIN a Claw Machine Arcade 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!**

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