



The Greater Washington Community Kollel

SHABBOS DELIGHTS

TORAH MINUTE

IN MEMORY OF RABBI KALMAN WINTER ZT" L

Recognize Your Greatness!

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

You are the children of Hashem your G-d; you shall not cut yourselves and you shall not make any baldness between your eyes for the dead. (14:1)

The Torah introduces the prohibition against mutilating oneself when mourning for the dead with the statement, "You are the children of Hashem your G-d." The commentaries offer various explanations connecting the two parts of the verse. Rashi explains that we are prohibited from making cuttings or incisions when we mourn, which was the practice of the Amorites, "because you are children of Hashem and it is therefore fitting that you appear nice and not full of cuts and with hair torn out."

It is incumbent on each of us to realize the greatness that is inherent within us. As children of Hashem and His representatives on earth, we have a responsibility to present ourselves to the world in a way that is in keeping with that role. We are, therefore, charged with always ensuring that our appearance is dignified and presentable.

This recognition, however, should not only impact our outward appearance, but is also the most basic and necessary tenet for spiritual growth. Rabbeinu Yonah opens his work, Shaarei Ha'avodah, by stating that the first step in growing in one's service of Hashem is knowing one's own worth and recognizing one's greatness and importance. A person who recognizes their intrinsic greatness, when faced with a challenge, will be able to say, "a person of my stature, who has so many positive traits and comes from such great heritage, could sin before G-d?"

As we begin the month of Elul, the month of "Ani l'dodi v'dodi li – I am to my beloved and my beloved is to me," our first task is to realize the special relationship we have with Hashem and the unique status that we have as a result. If we can recognize how special and beloved we are before Hashem, then we can reexamine our actions and character traits in a brand new light. This can be the first and most important step towards elevating ourselves in time for Rosh Hashana and Yom Kippur.

Wishing you a Good Shabbos!

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TABLE TALK

Point to Ponder

The blessing, that you hearken to the commandments of Hashem your G-d... (11:27)

You will receive the blessings on condition that you listen to the commandments of Hashem (Rashi).

If you follow my decrees... then I will provide rain in the proper times... (Bechukosai 26:3)

If you involve yourself in Torah study, then you will receive the blessings (Rashi).

Are the blessings on account of Torah study or on account of the fulfillment of the mitzvos?

Parsha Riddle

In halacha, blood is compared to which liquid?

Please see next week's issue for the answer.

Last week's riddle:

Which verse in this week's parsha is used in Shemoneh Esrei?

Answer: Hakeil hagodol hagibor v'hanorah (10:17)

HATORAH V'HAMITZVAH

HALACHA INSIGHTS FROM THE PARSHA

Parashas Re'eh (15:1-2) contains the commandments to remit debts "at the end of seven years" (*shemitas kesafim*). The Torah explicitly acknowledges that these commandments may have the unintended consequence of dissuading people from lending, and it explicitly prohibits this and demands the extending of credit regardless:

Beware lest there be a lawless thought in your heart saying, "The seventh year approaches, the remission year," and you will look malevolently upon your destitute brother and refuse to give him – then he may appeal against you to Hashem, and it will be a sin upon you.

You shall surely give him, and let your heart not feel bad when you give him, for in return for this matter, Hashem, your G-d, will bless you in all your deeds and in your every undertaking. (15:9-10).

Rambam rules:

One who refrains from lending money to a colleague before the Sabbatical year lest [the repayment] of the debt be delayed and it be nullified, violates a negative commandment ... It is a severe sin ... The Torah objected to this evil thought and called it "wicked" and the verse continued warning and commanding one not to refrain [from lending], but to give [the loan] ... [Indeed,] the Holy One, blessed be He, promised that the reward for this mitzvah will be granted in this world, as [the verse continues:] "Because of this G-d will bless you." (*Shemita ve-Yovel* 9:30)

Ironically, the *Mishnah* explains that due to the popular failure to abide by these precepts, Hillel the Elder were forced to institute the mechanism of *prozbul* which practically vitiates the commandments of *shemitas kesafim*:

[A loan secured by] a *prozbul* is not cancelled. This was one of the things enacted by Hillel the Elder; for when he observed people refraining from lending to one another, and thus transgressing what is written in the Torah ... Hillel enacted the *prozbul* (*Shevi'is* 10:3).

The Talmud elaborates:

What is the meaning of the word *prozbul*? Rav Hisda said: An ordinance [pros] of *bulei* and *butei*. *Bulei*, these are the wealthy ... *Butei*, these are the poor ... (*Gittin* 36b-37a)

Rashi explains that the *prozbul* benefits the rich, who will no longer lose their capital due to the remission of loans that they make, and the poor, who will no longer be denied credit.

PRESENTED BY

RABBI YITZHAK GROSSMAN, ROSH CHABURAH

KIDS KORNER

Who Am I?

#1 WHO AM I?

1. I must be destroyed.
2. I cause impurity.
3. I can cause the destruction of a city.
4. I am strange.

#2 WHO AM I?

1. I am the soul.
2. Use salt.
3. I am red.
4. I am not stupid.

Last Week's Answers

#1 Earth (I was for Yaakov, I was for Moshe, The snake bites me, I am for trampling.)

#2 The 2nd Paragraph of Shema (I am the second of three, I am every morning and evening, I have blessings, I have curses.)

KOLLEL BULLETIN BOARD

Kollel classes resume this Sunday, Rosh Chodesh Elul, August 28!

Sunday Classes (Zoom links at gwckollel.org)

Sunday Brunch & Learn

9:50am @ YISÉ

For men

4 classes to choose from

Parsha Explorations

8:00pm @ KMS & on Zoom

For men and women

Rabbi Yitzhak Grossman

On the Same Page Gemara

8:15pm on Zoom

For men

Rabbi Menachem Winter

Chumash Expositions

8:15pm on Zoom

For men and women

Rabbi Zacharia Schwartz