



The Greater Washington Community Kollel SHABBOS DELIGHTS

TORAH MINUTE

IN MEMORY OF RABBI KALMAN WINTER ZT"L

It is an honor to present this week's Torah Minute from our archives. The following was penned by our founder, Rabbi Kalman Winter ZT"L.

The artisans of the temple were men and women of extraordinary talent and creativity. They not only possessed great technical skill but were spiritually imbued. The secrets of heaven were known to them, and they had a scope of vision beyond our comprehension. Given all these gifts and insights, one would imagine that their fertile minds and hearts would fervently desire to create and fashion their own individual, personal expression of creativity reflecting their deepest understanding, feelings and spirit of the temple. Yet, the Torah records their genius and passion was channeled and directed exclusively to conform to the exact specifications given to them by Moshe for the construction of the temple. The verse reads in Pikudei, Chapter 39, Verse 43, "Moshe saw all the work and behold they did as G-d had commanded and Moshe blessed them." The Rabbis comment, Moshe's blessing was not for the perfection, detail, and beauty of their work, but rather, it was for the integrity with which they crafted their workmanship. They did not deviate a scintilla from the design and blueprint they were given from Above. Therein was to be found their true greatness and distinction. It was not in their craftsmanship but in their humility to subordinate their creative will and spirit to the will of their Creator.

This is the eternal lesson of the Torah. Our deepest spiritual yearnings and desires will only be realized and maximized with the meticulous observance of Torah and Mitzvos. Creative amendments and changes to Torah, though well meaning, will not bear the fruit of success we so desire. Jewish history is witness to this fundamental truth that only with integrity and commitment to the traditional values and teachings of Torah can we be assured that our progeny will add yet future links to the golden chain from Sinai.

Wishing you a Good Shabbos!

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Point to Ponder

TABLE TALK

Parsha Riddle

And they brought the Mishkan to Moshe, the Tent and all its implements... (39, 33)

Because they were unable to erect it, and because Moshe did not actually work on the construction of the Mishkan, Hashem left its erection to him. No man was able to erect it because of the weight of the beams, but Moshe erected it. Moshe said to Hashem, "How can the erection of the Mishkan be accomplished by man?" Hashem said to him, "Involve yourself in erecting the Mishkan with your hands, and it will appear as if you were setting it up, but it will rise upright by itself and remain standing." (Rashi)

If the honor of erecting the Mishkan was given to Moshe as compensation for not having a part in the actual building of the parts of the Mishkan, how did this qualify as compensation, as in the end he did not actually erect the Mishkan either?

Which chapter of Tehillim is referenced in this week's Parsha?

Please see next week's issue for the answer.

Last week's riddle:

Which European Yeshiva possessed a model of the Bais Hamikdash?

Answer: Yeshivas Chachmei Lublin

HATORAH V'HAMITZVAH

HALACHA INSIGHTS FROM THE PARSHA

In *parashas Pikudei* (40:17), the Torah relates: "It was in the first month of the second year on the first of the month that the Tabernacle was erected." Later (*Bamidbar* 7:1-11), the Torah relates:

It was on the day that Moshe finished erecting the Tabernacle that he anointed it, sanctified it and all its utensils, and the Altar and all its utensils, and he had anointed and sanctified them. The leaders of Israel ... brought forward offerings for the dedication of the Altar on the day it was anointed, and the leaders brought their offerings before the Altar. Hashem said to Moshe, "One leader each day, one leader each day shall they bring their offering for the dedication of the Altar."

Maseches Sofrim (21:2-3) teaches:

Why do we not fast during the month of Nisan? For on the first of Nisan the Tabernacle was erected, and the twelve leaders offered their offerings over twelve days, one day for each tribe, and each one made a holiday (*yom tov*) on his day ... We therefore do not say *tachanun* on all the days of Nisan, except for the firstborn who fast on the day before Passover, and the modest (i.e., pious) ones (also fast on that day) because of the matzah, so that they will enter (Passover) with an appetite ...

The *Beis Yosef* (OC 429) explains the intent of this passage to be that since when the first twelve days of Nisan, which are considered holidays, are combined with the seven (Biblical) days of Passover, it turns out that "most of [Nisan] has passed in holiness," we therefore do not fast (or say *Tachanun*) at all during the month.

Later *halachic* authorities add further holiday restrictions that apply throughout the month of Nisan, including the following: "*Tzidkasecha*" is not recited (during *minchah* on the Shabbos); the "*Yehi Ratzon*" prayers are not recited following the reading of the Torah (during the week); eulogies are not delivered; and the dead are not memorialized (i.e., we do not recite "*E-l Malei*," although the *Yizkor* service is recited on the last day of Passover) (*Shulchan Aruch se'if 2* and commentaries there).

The holiday character of the entire month of Nisan and the consequent restrictions on conduct inappropriate to holidays were raised in objection to the establishment of Yom HaShoah during Nisan; a more detailed discussion of this issue is beyond the scope of this article.

PRESENTED BY
RABBI YITZHAK GROSSMAN, ROSH CHABURAH

KIDS KORNER

Who Am I?

#1 WHO AM I?

1. I am said at the end.
2. I am said for the beginning.
3. I am for strength.
4. I am loud.

#2 WHO AM I?

1. I am for redemption.
2. I am for spring.
3. I am the first.
4. I am the seventh.

Last Week's Answers

#1 Parah Adumah (Red Heifer) (I am the mother, I clean up after my child, I cannot work, I am one of the four.)

#2 Betzael (I came from the calmer (Chur), Hashem's shadow, G-d filled, Oversee.)

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THEMES of the SEDER

featuring words of insight and inspiration from
Rabbis of our community in preparation for the
Pesach Seder



This Monday!

March 31

8:15pm

On Zoom

Zoom link at

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