



The Greater Washington Community Kollel

SHABBOS DELIGHTS

TORAH MINUTE

The King of Israel, upon his ascension to the throne, is commanded to write two Torah Scrolls - the first is to be kept in his palace, while the second must accompany him wherever he may go. The need to maintain two Torah scrolls requires explanation. It is understandable that the Torah commands the King to have a Torah scroll as his constant companion. The King is presumably an exceedingly wealthy and powerful individual and is thus subject to unique and significant temptation. Furthermore, he would be charged with leading the nation on a righteous path and would be making decisions of national importance and consequence. As such, a requirement to possess a Torah at all times, providing him with wisdom and endowing him with the clarity to lead the nation properly, makes perfect sense. But doesn't the requirement to maintain a Torah with him constantly render any mandate to keep a separate and distinct Torah in the palace superfluous?

Let me provide a possible answer. When the King leaves his palace and ventures forth into the world, he will be confronted with its allure and enticements. He will also be making far reaching decisions on diplomacy, economic policy, and military strategy. Accordingly, the King may be tempted to finesse the laws of the Torah for reasons of expediency or convenience. The King is therefore commanded to have a Torah Scroll safely ensconced in his palace, safeguarded and shielded from any corrupting influences or pragmatism of statecraft. It would be through this pure scroll that the King would measure his ideas and philosophies to ensure that they remained authentic and true.

The lesson for us is obvious. Like the King, we too venture forth into a world of temptation and we likewise are confronted with difficult decisions, many of which will impact our family. And like the King, we too should have a "pure scroll" safeguarded in our "palace" to be an enduring and incorruptible guide for us.

Have a wonderful Shabbos!

Rabbi Menachem Winter

TABLE TALK

POINTS TO PONDER

And who is the man who has betrothed a woman and not married her? Let him go and return to his house... (20, 7)

How was Dovid Hamelech allowed to wage war against the Philistim? This was immediately following his betrothal of Michal the daughter of Shaul (Shmuel 1, 8, 17)?

PARSHA RIDDLE

How could fruit disturb a war?

Last Week's Riddle and Answer:

How did Yehoshua's future position limit him?

Answer: Since Yehoshua was going to be the leader to lead Bnai Yisroel into Eretz Yisroel, he did not want to argue with the other spies in favor of Eretz Yisroel. It would seem that he is biased.

Congratulations to: Sorry, no winners this week.

TIMELESS WISDOM

And the man that will act with willfulness, not listening to the Kohen [Priest] who stands there to serve Hashem... or to the judge, that man shall die, and you shall destroy the evil form among Bnai Yisroel. (17, 12)

The president of a certain synagogue came to a certain Chasidic Rabbi (the Ostrover Rebbe). The gentleman explained his dilemma as follows. "When I came to this country, there was no religious infrastructure in my community. I worked tirelessly to establish a synagogue, and with G-D's help, I was successful. We have a beautiful place of worship, a wonderful Rabbi, and everything has been going well. Recently, however, there have been rumblings in the community. People are not happy with the way I run the synagogue. I am very disheartened by this and am not sure how I should deal with this issue."

The Chasidic Rabbi did not immediately answer but rather asked the man, "Do you know why I came to America?" The man was confused and admitted that he did not know why the Rabbi came to America, nor did he understand the connection between his issue and the Rabbi's question.

The Rabbi proceeded to explain himself. "No one knows why I came to America, but I will tell you. Afterwards, I want you to return home and think about my story. My father was the fourth generation leader of the Chaddisic dynasty in Ostrov. World War I unfortunately destroyed the city of Ostrov. My wife and three of my children were killed and my parents passed away that year as well. After the war was over, I came back to the city, and with tremendous help from G-D, I rebuilt the Jewish community back to its former glory. The community appointed me as successor to my father, and I became the fifth generation 'Rebbe'."

"I am sure you are curious now as to why I came to America. After a short while, complaints among certain community members arose. I had an elderly uncle who some felt should have succeeded my father's position instead of me. When I heard of these murmurings, I ran to America. I left everything behind in order to run away from any potential disagreement with others. You can imagine what happened next. The city of Ostrov was destroyed by the Nazis and my uncle was murdered in the town square. I am the survivor of the dynasty."

"Arguments and squabbles (machlokes) are a terrible thing and one must distance himself from them as far as possible. The Torah punishes the rebellious elder with the death penalty. The elder does not think he is acting incorrectly; to the contrary, he believes he is correct and the High Court is making the mistake. Still, the Torah requires the elder to follow the ruling of the High Court because otherwise argument will abound and that will destroy Bnai Yisroel, the nation of Israel."

The next day the President resigned from his position.

KIDS KORNER

WHO AM I?

1. I am a reminder about our relationship to Hashem
2. I hint at Purim
3. I am the sixth or twelfth

Who am I?

1. I need a Sefer Torah
2. Honor me
3. Fear me
4. I am not salt

Who am I?

Last Week's Answers

1. The 'yud' added to Yehoshua's name

**Congratulations to:
Ady Green, Neil Parks**

2. Challah

**Congratulations to:
Ady Green**

All children who answer one of these riddles correctly will be entered into a

raffle to win



The drawing will be held Sept. 30th.

Answer as many as you can each week – each correct answer entitles you to another raffle and increases your chances of winning!

Please visit gwckollel.org to submit your answers.

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