



The Greater Washington Community Kollel

SHABBOS DELIGHTS

TORAH MINUTE

IN MEMORY OF RABBI KALMAN WINTER ZT"l

"A perfect and honest weight should you have, a perfect and honest measure you should have, so that your days shall be lengthened on the Land that Hashem your G-d gives you" (25:15). The Torah here enjoins us to be ethical in our business dealings. Interestingly, this commandment concludes with the stated promise for long life, which leads to an obvious question. While the imperative of ethical conduct is well understood, why is it here, among only three other places in the entire Torah, that the reward for long life is explicitly promised?

In truth, the performance of this Mitzva is not the mere execution of transacting business with an honest weight. Nor is this Mitzva simply an injunction against using a false weight. Instead, this Mitzva speaks to a foundational concept in how we relate to G-d. In the difficult and often elusive quest to secure a livelihood and provide for one's family, a person encounters many ethical dilemmas. He is often tempted to cut corners that he believes will save him time and money. Small improprieties beckon that he imagines will bring him comfort and wealth. Often, the self-imposed need to race to the top may impair his judgment and inhibit him from administering his affairs soundly.

The man who stands above all this and conducts his business scrupulously demonstrates his bedrock faith in G-d. Through his insistence on the highest standards of honesty, he testifies that it is G-d alone that determines success. By resisting the siren call to push ahead at all costs he acknowledges that Divine Providence conducts all worldly matters. And just as this person validates his faith in G-d, G-d draws this person close and rewards him with the gift of life.

Securing a livelihood is challenging and could pose formidable temptations. But when we internalize the true source of our success, we will be fortified to conduct ourselves with the greatest integrity, thus ensuring ourselves the rich reward of long life and closeness to G-d.

Have a wonderful Shabbos!
Rabbi Menachem Winter

TABLE TALK

Points to Ponder

In this week's Parsha, the Torah states: **Fathers shall not be put to death because of sons, and sons shall not be put to death because of fathers, a man should die for his own sin (24:16)**. Back in Parshas Ki Sisa, however, it states: **On the day I make My account, I shall bring their sin to account against them (32:34)**. The Gemara comments that: *No tragedy befalls Bnai Yisroel that does not include some punishment for the Cheit HaEgel (Sanhedrin 102a)*.

How do we resolve this apparent conflict? Are we held accountable for the sins of the previous generation or not?

Parsha Riddle

Which part of this week's Torah reading is a biblical commandment this year according to some opinions?

Please see next week's issue for the answer.

TIMELESS WISDOM

You shall surely return them to your brother... so shall you do for any lost article of your brother. (22: 1,3)

Rabbi Avrohom Weknun, ob"m, related the following incident. There was a poor man who owed a lot of money. One day, as he was walking in the street concerned about his financial situation, he noticed a golden nugget on the ground. He excitedly picked it up. As he inspected it, he saw that there were signs on it with which the owner would be able to identify the item. Accordingly, as halacha dictates, he posted signs announcing his find.

Sometime later a man knocked on his door claiming that he had lost a golden nugget and could identify it. He proceeded to provide the poor man with the identifying attributes. The poor man went into the other room to determine that the signs indeed matched. They did. He came out and told the man, "Please wait a minute, I will be right back."

The poor man returned with a group of people and a basket of bread and food. "Please everyone come wash their hands and join me for my seudas mitzva [feast celebrating a mitzvah]." People wondered whether he was making a feast in honor of the completion of a masechta [tractate of Talmud]. The gentleman explained. "This is a seuda in honor of the fact that I have the opportunity to fulfill such an important mitzva. I found this golden nugget, and despite my own impoverished circumstances, I have the opportunity to return it to its rightful owner. Someone who has a chance to perform a mitzva is a very fortunate individual. As such, I invited you to this seudas mitzva." With that he returned the golden nugget.

KIDS KORNER

Who Am I?

#1 WHO AM I?

1. I cause hatred
2. I will lead to rebellion
3. I am for the Yetzer Hora
4. Make me disheveled

#2 WHO AM I?

1. I apply to men
2. I exist because of inhospitality
3. I am a result of Bilaam
4. I am forever

Please see next week's issue for the answers.

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

Win a super prize

Please visit gwckollel.org to submit your answers.

The drawing will be held Sept. 30th.

Answer as many as you can because each correct answer will entitle you to another raffle ticket and increase your chance of winning!

KOLLEL BULLETIN BOARD

Join Rabbi Menachem Winter as he takes a look at the Parsha through the eyes of Halacha.

"Torah Topics: An In Depth Halachic Discussion on Parsha Themes" meets on Thursday evenings at 9 PM.

Elul Semester has begun!

Come learn with the Greater Washington Community Kollel in Kemp Mill, White Oak, Potomac, and Washington D.C.

For a variety of opportunities to participate, visit our website at www.gwckollel.org.

Come and study Business Ethics with the Kollel as we explore the fascinating topic of Dina D'Malchusa Dina.

Sunday mornings at 9:30 AM at Young Israel Shomrai Emunah.