



The Greater Washington Community Kollel

SHABBOS DELIGHTS

TORAH MINUTE

IN MEMORY OF RABBI KALMAN WINTER ZT" L

The Talmud in Tractate Rosh Hashana, based on expositions of the relevant verses, teaches us that there is an affirmative Mitzvah to eat and drink on the day prior to Yom Kippur until sunset, when the fast and the restrictions of the day begin. Indeed, the Talmud tells us that the reward for this feasting is equivalent to the reward for fasting on Yom Kippur itself. While it certainly is a wise practice for one who is about to commence a fast to fortify himself with food and drink, why does the Torah make it a special Mitzvah to do so? And why the great reward?

Rabbi Yonah in his epic Mussar (Ethics) classic, Sharei Teshuva (4:8,9,10), provides a few reasons for this Mitzvah, two of which provide a particularly meaningful understanding of the Holiday. First, the feast before the fast recognizes the great opportunity Yom Kippur affords us to cleanse ourselves and draw ever closer to G-d. We effect a new reality for ourselves on Yom Kippur, one that anticipates and compels spiritual elevation. The feast before Yom Kippur is a celebration of this new reality and testifies to one's longing to attain this additional intimacy. Second, it is critical that our inspirations not dissipate nor our commitments go unrealized. We need to conceive of strategies so that we do not fall prey as we have in the past and we must devise ways to ensure that our newly-inspired spiritual resolutions are actualized. This of course requires mental and physical energy. Hence, the Torah's imperative to fortify ourselves prior to Yom Kippur.

The Mitzvah to eat and drink before Yom Kippur, and the concomitant reasons for it, provide a wonderful insight into the essence and service of Yom Kippur. It is not a somber and mournful day; on the contrary, it is a day filled with anticipation and longing to draw nearer to G-d. When we utilize this remarkable occasion not only to become inspired in the conceptual sense, but to implement strategies to improve ourselves and inch a little closer to the person we hope to be, we will no doubt have a precious and meaningful Yom Kippur.

Wishing you an inspired Yom Kippur and a wonderful year!

Rabbi Menachem Winter

TABLE TALK

Point to Ponder

On Yom Kippur a gravely ill person should eat less than a qualifying amount of food (Shulchan Aruch, Orach Chaim 618:6).

The Rambam rules that eating less than a qualifying amount of food is Biblically forbidden even if it does not subject one to punishment by the courts (Rambam ma'acholos asuros 14:1). Eating food in an abnormal manner, however, is not forbidden (Rambam ma'acholos asuros 14:10).

Why do we rule that a gravely ill person should eat less than a qualifying amount of food? He has still committed a transgression. It would seem more appropriate to have him eat the necessary food in an abnormal manner (as described in the Rambam), in which case there wouldn't be any transgression at all!

Parsha Riddle

What connection is there between Shavuot and Yom Kippur?

Please see next week's issue for the answer.

Last week's riddle:

When Rosh Hashanah is on Shabbos we do not blow shofar, for we are concerned that one may carry it in the public thoroughfare (Rosh Hashanah 29b). Which other three mitzvos are not performed on *Shabbos* for the same concern?

Answer: Lulav, Megilla (listed in Rosh Hashanah 29b) and sprinkling a tamei person with the water of the para aduma (Pesachim 69a)

TIMELESS WISDOM

Our Father Our King raise high the glory of Moshiach.

There was once a terrible drought and famine in Israel. Rabbi Salomon Mutzapi, zt"l, fasted for thirty-six hours straight, occupying himself with learning Torah and praying. At the completion of his fast, the heavens opened up and it began to rain. People were understandably overjoyed and celebrated with Rabbi Mutzapi, saying "Look how much Hashem accepted your fasting and davening." Rabbi Mutzapi replied, "*This* is considered an acceptance of my prayers? I was hoping Moshiach would come and resolve all problems."

We must take time to focus on our over-arching issue, the lack of Moshiach and the open revelation of G-d that will accompany his arrival. If we let specific problems take the back burner and focus our fervent prayers on the arrival of our salvation, perhaps we will truly merit to see the raising of Moshiach's glory.

KIDS KORNER

Who Am I?

#1 WHO AM I?

1. I am for Minyan
2. I am for confession
3. I am for Commandments
4. I am for fingers

#2 WHO AM I?

1. I am for Shema
2. I am for the Shem Hamifrosh
3. I was on the death-bed
4. Angelic secret

Last Week's Answers

1. **Shira – song** (sometimes I am a wall; sometimes I am two towers; I could be your sister; I will be male after Moshiach)
2. **Rosh – head** (I am of the year; not the tail; I am on the shoulders; I am not ahead but a)

Please see next week's issue for the answers to this week's questions.

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 www.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

Women's Programming: New Class!

Join Shabbos Gems with Mrs. Sara Malka Winter and uncover the hidden secrets and majestic beauty of this special day. Shabbos Gems begins Wednesday, October 9th at 8:00 PM at the Kollel.

A new opportunity at the Kollel!

Come learn Choshen Mishpat chavrusa style under the expert guidance of Rabbi Yitzhak Grossman. The new Money Matters – Choshen Mishpat Kollel will meet Monday through Thursday from 8:45 – 9:45 PM at the Kollel. Semester begins on Monday, October 7th.