



The Greater Washington Community Kollel

SHABBOS DELIGHTS

TORAH MINUTE

IN MEMORY OF RABBI KALMAN WINTER ZT" L

In this week's Parasha we are introduced to a society that had reached its nadir, corrupted with immorality, thievery, and exploitation. As a result of their conduct, G-d decreed that a great deluge would sweep away the populace. So as to save some vestige of the existing world, G-d commanded Noach to build an ark that would provide a sanctuary for himself, his family, and the animal kingdom. G-d gave Noach very specific instructions for the ark's construction, including that a window should be fashioned (6:15). Ostensibly, the window was intended to provide light for the ark's inhabitants. The Darchei Mussar, however, sees a deeper message in the imperative for the window. Although Noach and his family were being saved on account of his righteousness, and the rest of his generation were being destroyed on account of their wickedness, it was nevertheless incumbent on Noach to acknowledge and take stock of the suffering and destruction that was taking place around him. Sinful though they were, the people were fashioned in G-d's very image! Just as G-d himself was pained by the destruction, wicked though the generation was, He wanted Noach and his family to carry that pain as well.

In today's society it is often necessary to construct a spiritual "ark" for ourselves and our family in order to protect us from the influences of secularism and materialism. Although we might be safely ensconced in our spiritual havens and protected from the raging flood waters around us, we need to construct a "window" to enable us to look at, and empathize with, the plight of our fellow brothers and sisters. While we must protect ourselves from any negative influences of our secular society, we must never use such protection to blind ourselves to the plight of our fellow man and must always stand ready to assist them.

In a similar vein, I heard from my grandfather Amos Bunim z"l an explanation told to him from his father, Irving Bunim z"l, concerning a Halacha brought in Shulchan Aruch (O.C. 90:4). It states that when one prays in a room, there must be windows. The reason for this, Mr. Bunim explained, is that when we come before G-d to beseech him for our needs and desires, we must be "looking out" and see the needs of others. When G-d sees that our hearts are concerned for His children, our prayers for ourselves and our families will be answered.

Have a wonderful Shabbos!

Rabbi Menachem Winter

TABLE TALK

POINT TO PONDER

And Shem and Yefes took a garment, laid it upon both their shoulders ... and they covered their father (9:23).

The medrash teaches us the following: "Rav Yochanan taught: Shem initiated the mitzvah, therefore his children merited the mitzvah of wearing tzitzis on their garments" (Bereishis Rabbah 36:6). When Avraham refused the King of Sodom's offer of the spoils of war, he replied, "If so much as a thread or shoe strap, or if I shall take anything from you" (Lech L'cha 14:23). Interestingly, the Talmud relates that "In the merit of Avraham mentioning thread, his descendants merited the mitzvah of wearing tzitzis on their garments" (Sotah 17a). We appear to have contradictory sources for the mitzvah of tzitzis – did we merit the mitzvah because Shem covered Noah or because Avraham refused the thread?

PARSHA RIDDLE

The fear of you and the dread of you shall be on every beast of the earth and every bird of the heavens (9:2).

What halachic implication does this posuk have?

Please see next week's issue for the answer.

Last issue's riddle:

Which mitzvos does a person perform with his or her whole body?

Answer: Sukkah; Tevila in a Mikvah

TIMELESS WISDOM

Now the earth had become corrupt before G-d, and the earth had become filled with robbery (6:11).

A world of kindness will be built... (Tehillim 89:3)

A plague once hit the city of Garva, causing many of its citizens to remain indoors. As a result of the self-imposed quarantine, business suffered and people's livelihood was severely curtailed. Reb Yehudai Cohen was a wealthy man who was concerned for the welfare of those in town with no means of support. He approached Rav Chadad with a bag of coins and secretly told him, "The plague is sweeping through town. Who can be sure that they will make it through alive? Take this bag of coins and hold onto it. If you need to use it, please do so. If I survive the plague, and there is money left in the bag, you can give it back to me then."

That money turned out to be a lifesaver for Rav Chadad and his family, allowing him to purchase food throughout the duration of the plague. When the plague was over, Rav Chadad met his friend, Rav Shaul Cohen, and some other neighbors. He asked them how they managed financially throughout the plague. They all related a visit by Reb Yehudai Cohen. It was obvious that he had made the same "secret" visit to all these people, helping them financially in a discreet and respectful way.

KIDS KORNER

WHO AM I?

#1 WHO AM I?

1. I was a box
2. In the end I was a pole
3. I was a life saver
4. In the end I caused death

#2 WHO AM I?

1. I had a tower
2. I had a Gemara
3. I am the drain
4. I am mixed together

LAST ISSUE'S ANSWERS

#1 Arba Minim (I am for your heart, lips, spine, and eyes.)

#2 S'chach (Earthly produce; Mostly shady business; I must be detached and made.)

CONGRATULATIONS TO:

Shimon Graff, Yitzhak Graff

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.

Stay tuned for information on the next drawing!

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

THIS Sunday, October 6th, the Kollel in conjunction with Young Israel Shomrai Emunah invite men and women of the community to a Business Ethics Lecture from Rabbi Yitzhak Grossman. "Dina D'Malchusa Dina and Political Economy: Halachic Perspectives on Socialism vs. Libertarianism" will be at 9:30 AM at YISE.

Mazel Tov to Shimon Graff for winning the September 30th "Who Am I?" raffle! He won an air hockey table!



Now is an excellent opportunity to join Rabbi Zakem's Sunday night class, *Secrets of the Amidah*, as it begins the third blessing of the Shemoneh Esrei, the blessing of holiness. Come and discover its true meaning! 8:15 PM Sunday Nights, at Young Israel Ezras Israel Potomac.