



The Greater Washington Community Kollel

SHABBOS DELIGHTS

TORAH MINUTE

IN MEMORY OF RABBI KALMAN WINTER ZT"L

This Shabbos, Parsha Lech Lecha, marks the first Yahrzeit of our illustrious founder, Rabbi Kalman Winter, ZT"L. It is our honor to present from our archives a Torah Minute authored by Rabbi Winter in October 2009. Yehi Zichro Baruch.

In this week's Torah portion, Chapter 12, Verse 5, the Torah records that the family of Abraham "left to go to the land of Canaan, and they came to the land of Canaan."

The question begs itself - for what purpose did the Torah record that they went forth to the land of Canaan. It would have been sufficient to say that they arrived at the land of Canaan. The great Torah scholar, Rabbi Leib Chasman, of blessed memory, commented that from here we learn that the primary rule in all growth, both spiritual and otherwise, is never to lose focus of one's goals. Even a short lapse can cause one to fall short of his objectives and at times even fall behind his starting point. We often accept upon ourselves obligations to perform good deeds and undertake lofty endeavors. They are all worthwhile causes within our grasp only if we are able to abide by our agenda. We begin our quest steadily moving forward heading towards our goal. However, as so often occurs, we become distracted. Our enthusiasm wanes, and our desire dissipates. In order to achieve success, we must maintain the same drive and enthusiasm as expressed and displayed when we began our objective.

It is for this reason that the Torah records "and they left to go to the land of Canaan" as an introductory remark to explain how they achieved their objective of arriving in Canaan. For their impetus and drive during the entire journey was inspired and motivated by that original commitment and objective. Their passion and focus did not wane and their objectives were achieved. As we begin the new year and the new cycle of the reading of the Torah, let us be ever mindful not to lose focus of our commitments and goals to maintain them with fervor and passion.

Shabbat Shalom,

Rabbi Kalman Winter

TABLE TALK

POINT TO PONDER

I will bless those who bless you, and he who curses you I will curse, and all the families of the earth shall bless themselves by you (12:3).

Rashi interprets this pasuk to mean that when people bless their children, they will say "You should be like Avraham." But if all the families of the earth will be involved in blessing their children to be like Avraham, who will be left to potentially curse Avraham? Yet, the pasuk allows for the possibility that someone might just do that!

PARSHA RIDDLE

A person should first tie his left shoe, and then the right shoe (Orach Chaim 2:4).

Where in this week's parasha is the source for this halacha to be found? Please see next week's issue for the answer.

Last issue's 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?

Answer: An animal that has gored another animal is not assumed to be an animal that will also gore a person because it has an inherent fear of people.

TIMELESS WISDOM

When Hagar saw that she became pregnant, her mistress was lowered in her esteem (16:4).

Rav Aaron Aharonburg went to visit Rav Yisroel Salanter, the Torah Giant who founded the Mussar movement. He found Rav Yisroel to be very disturbed. After inquiring as to the source of his consternation, Rav Yisroel explained that someone came to voice his opinion against the Mussar movement and did so in a very strong and upsetting manner. Rav Yisroel concluded "and I got mad at him." When asked what he said to the provocateur, Rav Yisroel answered "Nothing."

Attempting to make Rav Yisroel feel better, Rav Aaron reasoned that "you did not respond, so why should you be so distraught? Just forget that he ever came to visit you." Rav Yisroel quietly responded, "Forget about the visit? The Gemara teaches us (Shabbos 105b) that getting mad is tantamount to committing idolatry. I must repent for the remainder of my life in order to atone for getting mad at him."

KIDS KORNER

WHO AM I?

#1 WHO AM I?

1. I was for 99
2. I was for 13
3. I am for 8
4. I need a northern wind

#2 WHO AM I?

1. Cut in half
2. I attracted the birds
3. I caused sleep
4. Revealing

LAST ISSUE'S ANSWERS

#1 The Teiva (I was a box and a life saver; In the end I was a pole and caused death.)

#2 Bavel (I had a tower and a Gemara; I am the drain and mixed together.)

CONGRATULATIONS TO:

Aharon Feldman

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 Motzai Shabbos! Girls Night Out is back!

High School girls are invited to join Mrs. Zakem and Mrs. Glassberg for discussion, food, and fun.

At the home of Mrs. Glassberg, 11200 Lockwood Dr. Apt. 208, from 8:30 - 10:00 PM.

Come and join Money Matters, a Choshen Mishpat Kollel under the guidance of Rabbi Yitzhak Grossman.

Come every night or two nights a week, Monday - Thursday from 8:45 - 9:45 PM at the Kollel.