



The Greater Washington Community Kollel

SHABBOS DELIGHTS

TORAH MINUTE

IN MEMORY OF RABBI KALMAN WINTER ZT" L

As Yaakov and his twin brother grow into young adulthood, their respective character begins to emerge. Eisav is described as a "hunter" and "a man of the field." In contrast, Yaakov is described as a "wholesome man," as someone who is occupied in sedulous study. One day, Eisav returns from a hunting expedition and is tired and hungry. Seeing Yaakov preparing a lentil stew, he demands it from his brother. Yaakov agrees on the condition that Eisav forfeit to him his rightful birthright (as the elder of the twins) to perform the future Temple service. Eisav agrees to the arrangement and Yaakov serves him the lentils and bread. The Torah concludes the narrative by sharply criticizing Eisav, stating that "Eisav spurned the birthright."

Why did Eisav agree to relinquish his rights to perform the divine service? Rashi in his commentary explains that Eisav was concerned about the great responsibility it entailed. There were many laws and procedures, and their contravention could be punishable by death! Daunted by the awesomeness of the task, Eisav willingly transferred it to his brother. Seemingly, this rationale is very reasonable and justifiable. Why does the Torah condemn Eisav for his decision?

Rabbi Moshe Feinstein explains that given the unique and special opportunity afforded Eisav, he should have steeled himself to the risks and challenges associated with it. Losing heart in the face of potential difficulties and relinquishing rights to something so precious testified to Eisav's lack of regard for the treasured Temple service.

We are often presented with opportunities to assume responsibility. It may be to head or help a charitable organization, assist a local synagogue, or spearhead an effort to meet the spiritual or physical needs of our fellow brothers and sisters. Invariably, we will be confronted with all sorts of challenges. Let us make sure to fortify ourselves and not allow these potential difficulties to stand in the way of serving G-d and our fellows. As we pray in synagogue Shabbos morning: *"and all who are involved faithfully in the needs of the community, may the Holy One, Blessed is He, pay their reward and remove sickness, heal them, and forgive their sins. And may He send blessing and success to all their endeavors, along with all Israel, their brethren, and let us say: Amen."*

Have a wonderful Shabbos!

Rabbi Menachem Winter

TABLE TALK

POINT TO PONDER

Yaakov gave Eisav bread and lentil stew, and he ate and drank, got up and left; thus Eisav spurned the birthright (25:34).

Yaakov only gave Eisav food, bread and stew. Why does the posuk say that he ate and drank?

PARSHA RIDDLE

Which unintentional curse was said in this parsha, but was nevertheless fulfilled?

Please see next week's issue for the answer.

Last issue's riddle:

Sarah's lifetime was one hundred years, twenty years, and seven years... (23:1)

What connection is there between Sarah and Queen Esther?

Answer: Esther ruled over 127 countries and Sarah lived 127 years.

TIMELESS WISDOM

The first one emerged red, entirely like a hairy mantle, so they named him Eisav. After that, his brother emerged with his hand grasping the heel of Eisav, so he called his name Yaakov (25:25 - 26).

Yaakov is named for the heel, symbolizing the final product and significance, while Eisav's name alludes to the word "shov"-- nothing and purposelessness (Beraishis Rabba 63, 8).

Rav Itzele Blazer related the following incident. He was walking with his Rebbi, the famed founder of the Mussar movement, Rav Yisroel Salanter. Rav Itzele related a piece of current events to his Rebbi. Rav Yisroel inquired, "Was there a purpose in mentioning that piece of news to me?" Rav Blazer replied that there was, and proceeded to explain why he had related the news. Rav Yisroel stopped him. "You don't have to explain yourself. I just wanted to ensure that you had a purpose in mind and that you were not simply relating information just in order to speak."

KIDS KORNER

WHO AM I?

#1 WHO AM I?

1. Eisav was ...
2. Eisav wanted ...
3. Eisav was called ...
4. Don't confuse me with read.

#2 WHO AM I?

1. You will read me in the summer.
2. I could mean since.
3. I was Og's weak point.
4. To a dog, I mean stop.

LAST ISSUE'S ANSWERS

#1 Ephron (I spoke a lot, did a little, and am the opposite of Avraham; don't confuse me with a pencil.)

#2 Sarah and Rivka (We had light all week and are 1 and 2 of 3; our dough was fresh; for us it was cloudy.)

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



Please visit www.gwckollel.org to submit your answers.

The next raffle will be November 26th!

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

Thursday Nights at the Kollel

Join the excitement Thursday night at the Kollel! Rabbi Brotsky explores Jewish Mysticism with the writings of Rav Chaim Volozener at 8:15 PM. Come and see the parsha through the lens of Jewish law and Talmudic perspectives in Rabbi Winter's Torah Topics class at 9:00 PM. Boys in grades 7-9 can join Rabbi Zakem's Halachic Conundrums class for a challenging discussion of Jewish law. Or bring your own chavrusa and grab a seat!

And don't forget to enjoy some cholent and soda!