



The Greater Washington Community Kollel

SHABBOS DELIGHTS

TORAH MINUTE

IN MEMORY OF RABBI KALMAN WINTER ZT" L

It is an honor to present this week's Torah Minute from our archives. The following was penned by our founder, Rabbi Kalman Winter ZT" L, in 2011.

This week's Torah portion of Bo opens with the eighth plague to come upon the Egyptians - the plague of Locust. Chapter 10 verse 14 reads, "And the locust ascended over the entire land of Egypt and rested in the entire border of Egypt." The Hebrew word for "and rested" is וַיָּנַח - vayanach. This word of "vayanach" is found in only two places in the entire Torah: here in our verse, and later in chapter 20 verse 11 in the Ten Commandments. The Torah there records "vayanach," "and (G-d) rested on the seventh day; therefore did G-d bless the Sabbath day and sanctify it."

The great commentator Baal ha-Turim comments: since the same word "and rested" is used by the locust and the Sabbath, this teaches us that the ravenous appetite and destructive behavior of the locust ceased on the Sabbath. As G-d rested on the Sabbath, so did the locust rest on that Sabbath in Egypt.

What a masterful insight! Even the locust, a lowly creature sent on a mission from Above, had the instinct that the glory of G-d fills the universe and His holy Sabbath was to be respected and observed. What does this say about our own sensibilities and sensitivities about the Sabbath? Surely we, the chosen people, recipients of Torah - how much more so we are to understand, cherish, and abide by the Covenant of the Sabbath, to heed and sanctify it in all its requirements and dimensions. The locust of Egypt is a challenge and inspiration for all.

Shabbat Shalom,

Rabbi Kalman Winter

TABLE TALK

POINT TO PONDER

Matzos and bitter herbs you shall eat it (Korban Pesach) (12:8).

One cannot fulfill their obligation with matzah that has not had Teruma and Ma'aser tithed from it (Pesachim 35a).

If all one has is non-tithed matzah, shouldn't the principle that a positive commandment overrides a negative commandment mandate that the positive command to eat matzah override the negative command of eating food that has not been tithed? (Shaagas Aryeh 96)

PARSHA RIDDLE

Paroh said to Moshe and Aaron, "Who and who are going?" Moshe said, "With our youngsters and our elders shall we go" (10:8-9).

What was being prophetically hinted to here?

Please see next week's issue for the answer.

Last issue's riddle:

What is the similarity between the first three of the ten plagues, and the first two of the Aseres Hadibros?

Answer: Moshe did not perform the first three plagues, and he did not say the first two of the Ten Commandments.

TIMELESS WISDOM

It (Korban Pesach) shall be yours for examination... (12:6)

It was time to redeem Bnai Yisrael, but they had no mitzvos with which to merit redemption. Therefore, Hashem commanded them to perform these two mitzvos — Korban Pesach and Bris Milah — in order to merit being redeemed (Rashi).

There was a young Rabbinic student who went to Poland to learn in Mir Yeshiva. On his way home, he decided to stop off in Radin to see the great sage, the Chofetz Chaim. The train stopped in the nearby depot and he took a wagon into Radin. Another passenger also had disembarked from the train and was likewise riding the wagon into Radin. The bochur informed him that he was going to see the Chofetz Chaim. "It is going to be early in the morning when we get to Radin. Why don't you sleep in my house tonight, and in the morning you can see the Chofetz Chaim," he offered. When they arrived in Radin, the bochur laid down, trying to warm his freezing bones. Suddenly, he realized that he had not davened Ma'ariv. He thought to himself, "I am still very cold. I will wait a few minutes, and when I am warmer, I will daven." He immediately fell asleep, and woke in the morning, totally forgetting about the incident.

After davening, he walked to the Chofetz Chaim's house and pulled out a paper with a question he wanted to ask. As soon as he entered, the Chofetz Chaim related the following thought. "I remember when inflation was so bad that people did not care for their copper coins. If the coins fell to the floor people would not bother to pick them up. But nowadays, there is such poverty, people will be certain not to lose even a copper coin. The same is true in regard to mitzvos. When Bnai Yisrael were in Mitzrayim, they were at the forty-ninth level of impurity, and Hashem gave them two mitzvos with which they could merit redemption. Two mitzvos seem trivial. But when impurity is so rampant, two mitzvos become so much more effective on account of their scarcity. Conversely, the same holds true. I remember a time when there were many Torah scholars, and Torah and mitzvos were observed in their fullest. Hence, if one forgot to daven Maariv, and would miss the mitzvah of krias Shema at night, it was not as detrimental. However, unfortunately in our days, Torah observance has slacked. When one misses any mitzvah, the ramifications are far greater. One must be careful not to slack off in the performance of any mitzvah."

The young man was dumbfounded at the Divine Inspiration of the Chofetz Chaim. He did not need to ask any questions. His trip had been well worth it, with an important lesson learned.

KIDS KORNER

WHO AM I?

#1 WHO AM I ?

1. I am number eight, not four.
2. I was in a pickle.
3. We finished the leftovers.
4. I defined the borders.

#2 WHO AM I ?

1. Time sensitive
2. I cause fasting.
3. I cause redemption.
4. I was deadly.

LAST ISSUE'S ANSWERS

#1 Kinim (I was proof of Hashem; I was tiny, from a finger, and came from the sand.)

#2 Barad (I was suspended and defied nature; I made them go inside; I am waiting for Gog and Magog.)

CONGRATULATIONS TO:

Aryeh Stiber

To see the complete list of those who answered correctly, visit the Kollel website.

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 \$50 LEGO GIFT CARD!

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

The next raffle will be January 21st

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

The Greater Washington Community Kollel, in conjunction with Young Israel Shomrai Emunah, invites men and women of the community to a Jewish Ethics lecture



by Rabbi Yitzhak Grossman entitled "*DNA in Halacha: Admissible Evidence?*"

The lecture will be presented at Shomrai Emunah, 1132 Arcola Ave., Sunday, Jan. 12th at 9:30 AM