



The Greater Washington Community Kollel

SHABBOS DELIGHTS

TORAH MINUTE

IN MEMORY OF RABBI KALMAN WINTER ZT"L

As we travel along in our spiritual journey, we may ask ourselves why G-d did not choose a more sublime being, such as an Angel, to carry out His mission. Our physical nature, with its concomitant needs, drives, and impulses, seems to make us less than ideal candidates for the Torah's calling.

The Torah introduces the commandment not to consume forbidden food with the clause "Anshei Kodesh Tehe'yun Li - People of holiness you should be to me." The Sfas Emes notes the designation "People of holiness." He comments that G-d is conveying to us that His mission is indeed specific and unique to man. Only man, with his corporeal nature, has the ability to stand between good and evil and choose between them. Only man can impose his spiritual element on his physical being, thereby sublimating the material and refining it until it becomes pure.

I recall many years ago, a student of my father ZT"L, introduced to him his young son. "This is my little tzaddikel (righteous one)," the proud father said. My father smiled warmly at the young boy and then turned to the father and said, "Why do you rob your son of his rightful journey by conferring on him the title of Tzaddik?"

It is true that our spiritual self must coexist with a physical self, whose demands and impulses pose many challenges. It is precisely this material nature, however, that enables us to exercise our free-will and gives us the ability to elevate the mundane to the majestic.

Have a wonderful Shabbos!

Rabbi Menachem Winter

TABLE TALK

POINT TO PONDER

And he shall provide for healing (21:19).

Heal me Hashem, and I will be healed (Yirmiyahu 17:11).

In this week's parasha, when referring to healing performed by a doctor, the Torah uses the phrase "v'rapoh yirapei," with the letter "pay." In Yirmiyahu, however, when referring to Hashem's healing, the navi uses the phrase "refoeini ... v'neirofei," with the letter "phay." Why do we change from the hard letter "pay" to the soft letter "phay"?

PARSHA RIDDLE

What is the connection between Moshe's going alone to Hashem to receive the Torah, and Moshe's appearance to Paroh in Mitzrayim?

Please see next week's issue for the answer.

Last issue's riddle:

What similarity is there between Shimshon Hagibor and Matan Torah?

Answer: 1) Shimshon uprooted a mountain and Har Sinai was uprooted during Matan Torah. 2) Shimshon was healed from his physical blemishes, and Bnai Yisroel were healed during Matan Torah from their physical blemishes.

TIMELESS WISDOM

He shall work for six years, and in the seventh year he shall go free... (21:2)

The line waiting to speak to Rav Mordechia Sharabi was long. People murmured amongst themselves about the powers of the Rav, "He is a Mekubal," and "He dabbles in the secrets of the Torah, and the Zohar." The murmuring reached the ears of the Rebbetzin. She came out to the waiting line and told them.

"Do you think that whoever wishes to be a 'Mekubal' could just put on a fancy frock and will instantly become a 'Mekubal'? I can testify that my husband worked very hard. For six years he totally dedicated himself to Torah study and serving Hashem. He fasted and worked on his middos very intensely during this time period. He interpreted the posuk "He shall work for six years, and in the seventh year he shall go free" to mean that after six years he could cease his fasting and come out of his cocoon. It was then time to teach and help others. It was with this background that my husband attained what he attained. Just as the gemara (Megilla 6b) teaches that one cannot attain Torah knowledge without effort, so too one cannot attain purity without effort. Do not be fooled otherwise."

All children 13 and under who answer a "Who Am I?" correctly will be entered into a raffle to

Win a super prize

Congratulations to Gilad Cohen, winner of the drawing for the

500 LEGO GIFT CARD!

KIDS KORNER

WHO AM I?

#1 WHO AM I?

1. I come after 6 days.
2. I come after 6 years.
3. I am for the ox and donkey.
4. I am for the field.

#2 WHO AM I?

1. I must be covered.
2. Fill me up.
3. I am not a bore yet I am one.
4. I am not for humans or vessels.

LAST ISSUE'S ANSWERS

#1 Luchos/Tablets (I was two yet I was four; I am in the front of the Shul; I was rock hard; I am not related to the iPad)

#2 Matan Torah/Har Sinai (Smokey; Quaking; Lightning; Noisy)

CONGRATULATIONS TO:

Shimon Graff and Yitzhak Graff

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.

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