



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 Tetzaveh details the vestments worn by the Kohanim -Priests - in the Mishkan - Tabernacle. The Mishkan, which would in the future take its permanent residence on Mount Moriah, was at the very center of the world. Directly above, heavenward, the throne of the Almighty is located. Our physical world is a reflection of the spirituality that dominates the world above.

In a related context, the Talmud in Avodah Zarah (2b) states that "all world events that transpire are intended ultimately to assist the Jewish people with the opportunity to learn and study Torah." The whole world is imbued with spirituality in purpose and substance, yet veiled in layers of materialism and physicality. To perceive true meaning through this veil and comprehend, is the purpose of life.

As we watch with fascination and trepidation the events unfolding in the Middle East (and around the globe), we are caught up in the political drama of the moment. However, as People of the Book, we must know and understand better, for there await repercussions far beyond the geo-political and military landscape. Consequences that are primarily spiritual in nature guide the world in a new direction to further facilitate the spiritual needs and wants of the Jewish People. As our Temple stood at Moriah at the epicenter of the world, so too through the fortunes of the Jewish people, all the throughways and byways of world history are directed, converging for the explicit purpose to advance the spiritual needs of the Jewish nation. Our view from below is in frames; from above, however, it is a total and complete panorama of history and events all designed and intended for our people.

Shabbat Shalom,

Rabbi Kalman Winter

TABLE TALK

POINT TO PONDER

Into the Breastplate of Judgment shall you place the Urim and the Tumim... (28:30)

When Aaron saw that Moshe, his younger brother, was appointed to be the leader and redeemer of Bnai Yisrael, he was happy. What did he merit on account of this? He merited wearing the Choshen / Breastplate of Judgment (Shabbos 139a).

The Choshen is one of the priestly garments. Aaron was required to wear it, as a priestly garment. Why is it considered to be a reward that he merited to wear it? He would have worn it anyway!

PARSHA RIDDLE

How do we benefit from the fact that the Romans stole the Bigdei Kehuna instead of destroying them?

Please see next week's issue for the answer.

Last issue's riddle:

What is the name of the rock that Aron sat on? Why was it given this name?

Answer: Even Hashesia – since the world was created from that spot.

TIMELESS WISDOM

They shall take for you pure olive oil... (27:20)

Why are Bnai Yisrael compared to olive oil? All liquids can mix with one another. However, olive oil, even if it is mixed with another liquid, will separate itself and rise to the top (Shemos Rabba pesicha to parshas Tetzaveh).

During the communist revolution in Russia, a woman approached Rav Isser Zalman Meltzer zt"l. She just gave birth to a boy and wanted her son to receive a Bris. "My husband is a communist fighting for control of Russia. He refuses to allow me to wound my son and circumcise him."

Rav Isser Zalman told the woman that he wanted to speak with her husband. When the man arrived Rav Isser Zalman told him, "Please young man, listen to the advice of an old man. Any new movement has a lot of drive and power when it begins. Just as when one spins a dreidel, it spins very fast in the beginning, and can knock things over, but as its momentum slows, it can be easily toppled, so too Communism. It has a lot of momentum now, but once it slows down, it will easily topple."

"Every country and every person has their uniqueness, they cannot all be treated the same indefinitely. I think that maybe this movement will last seventy years, but afterwards the Jews will separate themselves, and rise to the top, returning to their lost roots. How will your son remember that he is a Jew? Please allow him to be circumcised, and then he will always remember he is a Jew."

The husband replied, "You are saying foolishness! Communism will conquer the world. It is the way of the future, and it will be the permanent solution."

Who was right?

KIDS KORNER

WHO AM I?

#1 WHO AM I?

1. I make you knock.
2. I fix your speech.
3. I had the bells but not the whistles.
4. My pomegranates were not full of seeds.

#2 WHO AM I?

1. I could mean to shine.
2. I could mean to look.
3. I caused atonement.
4. I proclaimed holiness.

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

win a

\$50 gift certificate to

MAX'S CAFE

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

The next raffle will be March 25th.

Answer as many as you can because each correct answer will entitle you to another raffle ticket and increase your chance of winning!

LAST ISSUE'S ANSWERS

#1 Menora (I had blossoms even in the winter; I was a fiery creation; I can be found on the "Arch of Titus"; I caused the Kohen Gadol to walk the longer route.)

#2 Aron (I was only for the first; I was a three-in-one deal; I caused a fight; Beware! I can cause death.)

CONGRATULATIONS TO:

Yitzchok Meir Biberfeld

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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"Shabbos Gems" Resumes



This Tuesday, February 11th, "Shabbos Gems" with Mrs. Sara Malka Winter resumes.

Uncover the hidden secrets and majestic beauty of Shabbos!

Tuesdays, 8:00 PM, at the Kollel