



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 2010.

The artisans of the Mishkan (Temple) were men and women of extraordinary talent and creativity. They not only possessed great technical skill, but they were spiritually imbued as well. The secrets of Heaven were known to them, and they had a scope of vision beyond our comprehension. Given all these gifts and insights, one would imagine that their fertile minds and hearts would fervently desire to create and fashion their own individual, personal expression of creativity reflecting their deepest understanding, feelings and spirit of the Mishkan. Yet, the Torah records that their genius and passion were channeled and directed exclusively to conform to the exact specifications given to them by Moshe for the construction of the Mishkan. The verse reads in Pekudei, Chapter 39, Verse 43, "and Moshe saw all the work and behold they did as G-d had commanded and Moshe blessed them." The Rabbis comment that Moshe's blessing was not for the perfection, detail, and beauty of their work, but rather for the integrity with which they crafted their workmanship. They did not deviate a scintilla from the design and blueprint they were given from Above. Therein was to be found their true greatness and distinction. It was not in their craftsmanship, but in their humility to subordinate their creative will and spirit to the will of their creator.

This is the eternal lesson of the Torah. Our deepest spiritual yearnings and desires will only be realized and maximized with the meticulous observance of Torah and Mitzvos. Creative amendments and changes to Torah, though well meaning, will not bear the fruit of success we so desire. Jewish history is witness to this fundamental truth — that only with integrity and commitment to the traditional values and teachings of Torah can we be assured that our progeny will add yet future links to the golden chain from Sinai.

Shabbat Shalom,

Rabbi Kalman Winter

TABLE TALK

POINT TO PONDER

Everyone whose heart motivated him brought bracelets... every wise hearted woman spun with her hands... the leaders brought the Shoham stones... (35:22-27)

The most valuable donations were these expensive shoham stones. Why are they listed at the end of the list of donations?

PARSHA RIDDLE

What is the connection between cholent and our parsha?

Please see next week's issue for the answer.

Last issue's riddle:

Where in the parsha is the source that one should wash his hands before davening?

Answer: From the Kiyor. Just as the Kohanim washed their hands before performing the avoda in the Bais Hamikdosh, we are supposed to wash our hands before our avoda / davening.

TIMELESS WISDOM

Take from yourselves a gift for Hashem... (35:5)

Rabbi Zalman Sorotzkin shares the following story:

When the Yeshiva of R' Chaim Soloveitchik in Volozhin had fallen deeply into debt, R' Chaim went to Minsk to seek the help of the Yeshiva's fundraiser, R Baruch Zlotowitz. Upon hearing the large sum of money that needed to be raised, R' Baruch agreed to take care of it and R' Chaim remained in his home to study Torah. Shortly thereafter, R' Chaim asked R' Baruch if any progress had been made, and he cheerfully responded that he had already acquired half of the sum. Once again, R' Chaim returned to his learning. A few days later R' Chaim was told that the entire sum had been collected, and he joyfully returned to Volozhin and paid off the Yeshiva's debts.

Some time later, it became known to R' Soloveitchik that the entire sum was in actuality paid out of R' Baruch's own pocket! Hearing this, R' Chaim was confused. "Why did it take you so long to collect the money if it was from your own house?" he asked R' Baruch. "You could have given me the money immediately and I could have returned to the Yeshiva!" R' Zladowitz responded, "Do you think it is easy to part with so much money? It took me effort to convince myself to give the first half, and after that it was with much difficulty that I induced myself to give the second half!"

This, explains Rabbi Sorotzkin, is the true meaning of what it means to take from yourself – to convince yourself to give generously.

KIDS KORNER

WHO AM I?

#1 WHO AM I ?

1. We were not snow or rain.
2. We were not online – yet were in the cloud.
3. The name of my donor references my delivery.
4. We were the missing parts.

#2 WHO AM I ?

1. We lost a letter.
2. Our laziness caused our vigilance.
3. Our power distorted our reasoning.
4. Your read about us on Chanukah.

LAST ISSUE'S ANSWERS

#1 Counting Bnai Yisroel (I caused plagues; for me some use a posuk; sometimes a half shekel; I give you numbers.)

#2 Moshe's Face (I was bright; even though it wasn't Purim, I wore a mask; I am from the small "Aleph"; I was misunderstood as horns.)

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 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!

KOLLEL BULLETIN BOARD

This Wednesday!

The Kollel, in conjunction with Southeast Hebrew Congregation, invites men and women of the community to a Jewish Family Initiative lecture series, entitled "Peace in the Home." The first lecture in the series will be presented by Rabbi Shraga Neuberger. Rabbi Neuberger will be speaking on the topic of "Making a Good Marriage Great." The lecture will be followed by a Q&A session. The lecture begins at 8:00 PM, Wednesday February 26, at 10900 Lockwood Drive. Admission is free.