



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.

This week's Torah portion of Beha'aloscha speaks of the travels and transportation of the Mishkan, the Tabernacle, in the desert. In Chapter 9, verse 23, the Torah records "by the word of G-d they encamped, and by the word of G-d they traveled." When the cloud of glory above the Mishkan (Tabernacle) ascended, it was the signal to the nation of Israel to prepare to travel forth in the desert. The Mishkan was then taken apart to be reassembled at their next encampment.

The Talmud teaches us that the primary 39 classifications of prohibited work on the Sabbath are derived from the 39 different means of work and creativity that were employed in the construction of the Tabernacle. One of those prohibited activities was "sosair," destroying. The travels in the desert required the Kohanim (Priests) to take the Mishkan apart at intervals, akin to destroying. The Talmud asks the following question. The prohibition of "destroying" is violated only when, for example, an edifice is destroyed with the intention to rebuild it *in the same location*. But the tabernacle was disassembled in one location, and always reconstructed in a second location! How could we derive the prohibition of destroying, as we define it, from the Tabernacle? The Talmud responds with the above-quoted verse, "by the word of G-d they encamped, and by the word of G-d they rested," and so it was considered as one location.

The great scholar, Rabbi Naftali Trop, explains that this response serves as a life lesson for our eternal relationship with our Creator. When an infant is in the arms and embrace of its mother, if it were to be asked to describe its location, traveling from location to location, the infant would simply say, "I am in my mother's arms, the geography is secondary." Its place is its mother's embrace. So too, when our nation traveled in the desert, within the clouds of glory that enveloped them and embraced by the presence of G-d, our people constantly lived by "the word of G-d they encamped, and by the word of G-d they traveled." They were always in G-d's embrace as a mother carrying her child. G-d carried us forth for forty years in the desert and He was our place, our geographical location. Indeed, the Tabernacle was truly assembled and disassembled in one and the same location, always.

We too, must feel in all of our life's travels and journeys that we are guided, sustained, and nurtured always by G-d's benevolent hand and grace. Our challenge in life is to foster through our observance of Torah and mitzvos that relationship, which will permit us to feel the closeness and intimacy of His presence.

Shabbat Shalom,

Rabbi Kalman Winter

If you would like to sign up to receive the weekly "Shabbos Delights" by email, please send an email to info@gwckollel.org.

TABLE TALK

POINT TO PONDER

Moshe said... "Or if all the fish of the sea will be gathered for them, would it suffice for them (Bnei Yisrael)?" (11:22)

There are millions of fish swimming in the seas. Why would Moshe think that all these fish would not be sufficient for Bnei Yisrael?

PARSHA RIDDLE

A person should not go to the extreme with any trait... one should not be a glutton, nor fast every day; one should not be light headed nor be depressed. There is one trait that requires extremism and that is humility - one should not be haughty at all (Rambam Hilchos Dayos 2:3).

Where is there a hint to this halacha in the Parsha?

Please see next week's issue for the answer.

Last issue's riddle:

At what other point in the year do we read from Parshas Naso?

Answer: Chanukah

TIMELESS WISDOM

You shall stand the Leviim before Aaron and his sons and wave them as a wave offering in front of Hashem (8:13).

Rav Chaim Palagi zt"l authored seventy-two seforim during his lifetime, besides the fifty-four that were destroyed in fires. At the age of sixteen he wrote his first sefer, and completed his last sefer on the day he departed from the world. Judging from the depth and scholarship of his works, people assumed that it was humanly impossible to write so prolifically, and they therefore concluded that Rav Chaim was using kabbalistic means to write his seforim.

Word of these rumors reached Rav Chaim's son and disciple, Rav Avrohom. He responded as follows: "My father certainly knew the secrets of kabbala that would be necessary to author so many seforim, but he did not need to resort to using them. He possessed a more powerful attribute than those secrets - his will. The desire to author these works enabled him to achieve what is considered humanly impossible."

The same attribute can be found by Aaron and his sons. They waved twenty two thousand Leviim in one day - a feat which is humanly impossible. Chazal (Koheles Rabba 12:7) maintain that Aaron possessed outstanding will power. The source is the above pesukim and the words of Chazal that describe their ability to wave such a number in one day. There are goals that may seem impossible, but when one sets his mind to accomplish them, his will power can bring success.

KIDS KORNER

WHO AM I?

#1 WHO AM I ?

1. I was a riddle.
2. I served as fertilizer.
3. I was canned.
4. I revealed your piety.

#2 WHO AM I ?

1. We were tilted.
2. Step up for me.
3. We were all day.
4. We caused a holiday.

LAST ISSUE'S ANSWERS

#1 Nazir (I am a crown and a vow; I prevent intoxication; I am separated.)

#2 Sotah (I am to turn; some spell me with a 'Samech' and some spell me with a 'Sin'; I lead to a Nazir.)

CONGRATULATIONS TO:

Avrami Werner

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 super prize

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

The next raffle will be held on July 22nd!

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

JOIN THE GWCK FOR JUNIOR/TEEN SUMMER KOLLEL

Beginning June 22nd, come to daily classes on a variety of exciting topics for 5th – 9th graders. There will be snacks, raffles and prizes!

Classes for 5th & 6th graders will be 7:30 – 8:15 pm and classes for 7th – 9th graders will be 8:15 – 9:00 pm.