



The Greater Washington Community Kollel

SHABBOS DELIGHTS

TORAH MINUTE

IN MEMORY OF RABBI KALMAN WINTER ZT" L

The Jewish nation was on the march towards the Land of Israel - soon it would be theirs. Not content, however, with G-d's assurances of the conquest, the people insisted on a reconnaissance mission first. Twelve great men were chosen, one from each tribe, to travel to Canaan and return with a report. Upon the completion of their mission, the agents shared with the people a slanderous account of the land and related a demoralizing tale of the inhabitants' strength. The people believed them and, fearful and deflated, broke down and wept. In consequence, the spies were punished immediately by plague, and the nation was condemned to wander the desert for forty years. Only their children would merit entering the Land of Israel.

This tragic lack of faith in G-d is difficult to understand. These were the very people who firsthand witnessed the Exodus with its concomitant wonders and miracles. It was they who saw the great sea part, and it was they who had just stood at the foot of Sinai, amidst a celestial display of thunder and lightning.

It is the reality of the physical world in which we live that the spiritual experiences that we have and the inspirations that elevate us could vanish with hardly a trace. We must nurture our spirituality, making our inspirations concrete, and thereby ensure that they are more than a fleeting exaltation.

This truth is demonstrated by the Mitzvah of Tzitzis, given at the end of our Parsha: "... and you shall make fringes on the corners of your garments... and you will see it and remember all the Mitzvos of Hashem and perform them, and not stray after your heart and eyes..." This special garment, accompanying us constantly, reminds us of G-d and His Mitzvos.

Spirituality requires constant attention and care. It is, however, well worth the investment.

Have a wonderful Shabbos!

Rabbi Menachem Winter

TABLE TALK

POINT TO PONDER

How is the land, is it fertile or is it lean? Are there trees in it or not? (13:20)

Tree refers to a righteous person. Moshe wanted them to see if there were any righteous people living in the land that would have merits with which to protect the inhabitants (Bava Basra 15a).

Some lands are fertile lands, and some cannot yield a good produce. However, every land has trees growing there. For this reason the Gemara gave an allegoric explanation for the posuk. However, every posuk must have a simple meaning as well. What is the simple meaning of this posuk?

PARSHA RIDDLE

Where in the parsha do we see that Hashem tries to limit punishing Bnei Yisrael?

Please see next week's issue for the answer.

Last issue's 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?

Answer: Moshe was *exceedingly* humble (Behaaloscha 12:3).

TIMELESS WISDOM

Send forth men... (13:2)

Had Bnei Yisrael chosen to trust in Hashem, and not send out the meraglim, they would have entered Eretz Yisrael without a fight. However, now that they chose to send the meraglim, they chose to be on a different plane, choosing to work within the guidelines of nature. They thereby limited themselves to the rules of nature, as the mishna in Pirkei Avos (3:5) says, "One who accepts upon himself the yoke of Torah, will have the yoke of foreign sovereignty removed from him" (Seforno).

Rav Shlomo Elfandri, was in Tzefas, and he was approached by two terrified young fathers. "We just received a summons from the Turkish government (who ruled Eretz Yisrael at that time) that we are to be drafted into the Turkish army. How could we leave our Jewish environment, our families, and our bais Medrash, to go to the Turkish army?"

Rav Elfandri told them, "Accept upon yourselves the yoke of Torah study, and they will not have the ability to draft you, as the mishna says (Pirkei Avos 3:5) says, One who accepts upon himself the yoke of Torah, will have the yoke of foreign sovereignty removed from him."

Knowing the power of a promise from a Tzadik, they went home happy, committing themselves to Torah study. A short while later, Turkish soldiers came to their homes to bring them to the army. As they were being led away, they could not help but wonder about the promise from the Rav.

On the way to Tzidon, where the army base was, they stopped in Acco. Needing a rest, the Turkish soldiers stopped at a local tavern to have a drink and some fun, but the two Jewish men refused to enter, saying "This is not a place that is within our standards." Having no choice, the soldiers handcuffed them and left them outside the tavern, while the soldiers went inside.

A short while later, a high ranking Turkish official passed by and saw these two Jews chained outside the tavern. "What are you doing here?" he asked them. After they explained their story, the official told them, "If you won't go into a tavern, then you will never be a good soldier." With that he released them and sent them home, exempt from the army. Then they understood the promise of the Rav. If they act and maintain their level of commitment to Torah, then the foreign sovereignty will not be able to control them.

KIDS KORNER

WHO AM I?

#1 WHO AM I ?

1. I am a reminder.
2. I am for the corner, but I am not Peah.
3. I total 613.
4. I remind you of the sea.

#2 WHO AM I ?

1. I am named for my mitzvah.
2. I am not a bride.
3. Sometimes I am needed double.
4. I am even from Matzah.

LAST ISSUE'S ANSWERS

#1 Mon (I was a riddle; I served as fertilizer; I was canned; I revealed your piety.)

#2 Lights on the Menorah (We were tilted and all day; step up for me; we caused a holiday.)

CONGRATULATIONS TO:

Josh and Elliana Makovsky

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



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

This Sunday, the new Sunday Kollel Brunch & Learn begins at YISE!

Timeless Talmud - Learn Talmud in-depth with a focus on practical applications with Rabbi Menachem Winter, beginning with Keitzad Mevarchim and the laws of blessings.

Parsha Discourses - Analyses of selected topics from the weekly Parsha with Rabbi Yitzhak Grossman.

Unraveling the Navi - An exploration of the Navi with classic commentaries, beginning with Sefer Yehoshua, with Rabbi Dovid Brotsky.

Before We Begin - Study Jewish philosophy through the introductions of the Rambam, beginning with the Introduction to Perek Chelek - the 13 Principles of Faith, with Rabbi Yonatan Zakem.

Bagel Spread at 9:30 followed by classes from 10:00 - 10:45