



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, Korach, speaks of the division of responsibilities in the Temple Service between the Kohanim (the Priests) and the Levites. Chapter 18 verse 6 reads: "And I --behold! I have taken your brethren the Levites from among the Children of Israel; to you (the Kohanim) they are presented as a gift for G-d, to perform the service of the Temple." The great commentator Rashi explains that G-d's command that the Levites were a gift to the Kohanim was specifically in the capacity of assisting the Kohanim in their holy work at the Temple. Any misuse of the Levites to minister for the personal needs of the Kohanim was prohibited. Hence, the additional word in the verse "for G-d" is intended to teach that only for G-d's purpose were they provided to the Kohanim.

We can extrapolate an important lesson of life from this beautiful insight. The Torah saw fit to accentuate that those in authority must be ever so judicious with the use of their position and privilege. Paramount is the respect and dignity for the people who are subject to the authority of another. Great sensitivity and care have to be administered not to intimidate in any capacity or fashion those who are under the influence of others. This includes teachers and students, administrators and staff, rabbis and congregants, even spouses. Of special interest are the comments of the Rabbis regarding the cardinal principle of Judaism of the "honor that a child must give to a parent." At the same time, a parent is required to be sensitive, mindful, and respectful of one's children, not to incite or provoke them in any fashion.

Bringing this concept to an even greater degree of appreciation, the Ohr HaChayyim has the following comments to Genesis 39 verse 22. Joseph, falsely accused of improper behavior, languishes in prison in Egypt. G-d's grace shines upon him and he finds favor with all, and he becomes the administrator of all the prisoners. In Joseph's capacity, the Ohr HaChayyim explains that any and all of the tasks that Joseph delegated to others, he personally participated in with his fellow prisoners. This was done as a matter of respect for the dignity and honor of those who were placed under his authority. For this sensitivity Joseph received the admiration and love of all in his charge.

There will always be need for authority, for a civilized society to flourish and prosper. However, we must be ever mindful of the responsibilities and sensitivities that position requires, even demands.

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

The earth opened its mouth and swallowed them (16:27).

Rabba bar bar Chana related, "One time I was traveling and I met an Arab merchant who offered to show me where Korach was swallowed. I saw two holes with smoke rising out of them... I put my ear by the hole and I heard them saying "Moshe and his Torah are true and they are liars" (Sanhedrin 110a).

It would seem that they should be saying "We are liars", referring to themselves, that they lied regarding Moshe. What does the Gemara mean, "They are liars"?

PARSHA RIDDLE

How did Kabbalas Shabbos cause the death of two people in two different instances?

Please see next week's issue for the answer.

Last issue's riddle:

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

Answer: Hashem enabled the sojourn of the meraglim through Eretz Yisrael to be completed quickly, in order that Bnai Yisrael should not be punished for those additional days.

TIMELESS WISDOM

They gathered against Moshe and Aaron... (16:3)

How did such great people stumble to argue with Moshe?

In regard to the pursuit of honor, many people have stumbled, and brought destruction on themselves. Yerovom ben Nevat, after having led Bnai Yisroel to idolatry, was offered the opportunity to repent, "And you and I and Dovid HaMelech will tour Gan Eden together." Yet Yerovom declined, since he would not be in front of Dovid (Mesillas Yesharim 11).

Rav Chaim Shmulevitz related the following incident in relation to this: There was a meeting of leaders to discuss a certain pressing issue. In attendance was an older man, who after hearing the discussions said, "Please listen to me, I am already old and I have no time to pursue honor. Therefore, my opinion is a clean and pure one."

Rav Leib Chasman jumped up, "there is no such thing! On the contrary, anyone who dabbles in the pursuit of honor in their youth will be more involved in it in their old age. The danger of pursuing honor is not something that leaves a person in their old age."

KIDS KORNER

WHO AM I?

#1 WHO AM I?

1. Entangled Ram
2. Wooden staff with flowers waiting to bloom
3. Mouth of the donkey
4. Mouth of the ground

#2 WHO AM I?

1. My lineage was not fully delineated.
2. My lineage caused my downfall.
3. Don't confuse me with Rabbi Akiva.
4. I was not ice.



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!

LAST ISSUE'S ANSWERS

#1 Tzitzis (I am a reminder; I am for the corner, but I am not Peah; I total 613; I remind you of the sea.)

#2 Challah (I am named for my mitzvah; I am not a bride; sometimes I am needed double; I am even from Matzah.)

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.

KOLLEL BULLETIN BOARD

Wednesday Nights at the Kollel

There are two exciting classes at the Kollel every Wednesday night!

At 8:15, join "Secrets of the Amida" with Rabbi Zakem for Jewish philosophy and life lessons from the text of our daily prayers. Rabbi Brotsky explores the depth of the significance of the Torah through the teachings of the Maharal, at 9:00. Or bring your chavrusa and take advantage of the lively Beis Medrash!