



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 Re'eh, beginning with chapter 15, discusses the obligations, priorities, and sensitivities necessary for the fulfillment of the mitzvah of "tzedakah" (charitable giving). Our failure to heed properly the requirements of this mitzvah is presented in chapter 15 verse 9: "Beware lest there be a lawless thought in your heart..." The Hebrew word for lawless is "b'leeyaal". This is a contraction of two Hebrew words: "b'lee" (without) and "ohl" (yoke). The intent is that one who fails to properly contribute and distribute of his means discards his fundamental and essential obligations to his Creator. In effect, he has cast off his yoke of Heavenly service. So objectionable is his behavior that the only other circumstance in which this descriptive word of "b'leeyaal" is used is regarding the transgression of idolatry.

The Rabbis in the Talmud (Bava Basra 10:8) clarify why the failure to contribute charity in appropriate measure is akin to idolatry. One who commits idolatry denies G-d's presence and influence in his life. Similarly, regarding charity, one who hardens his heart and clutches his fist declares, in effect, that his true feelings of security and confidence rest in his money and resources. To him, strength and success do not emanate from Above, but rather from the toil of his hands and the value of his accounts. He is called a "b'leeyaal" - one who has cast his essential relationship to G-d aside. Conversely, one who gives purposefully and meaningfully with an open heart and hand forges a new and vigorous relationship with his Creator. He brings an intimacy with G-d in all his everyday life activities. In response, G-d will reflect His faith and trust in him with ever greater blessings in all his endeavors.

Shabbat Shalom,
Rabbi Kalman Winter

TABLE TALK

POINT TO PONDER

The blessing, that you hearken to the commandments of Hashem your G-d... (11:27)

You will receive the blessings on condition that you listen to the commandments of Hashem (Rashi).

If you follow my decrees... then I will provide rain in the proper times... (Bechukosai 26:3)

If you involve yourself in Torah study, then you will receive the blessings (Rashi).

Are the blessings on account of Torah study or on account of the fulfillment of the mitzvos?

PARSHA RIDDLE

In halacha, blood is compared to which liquid?

Please see next week's issue for the answer.

Last issue's riddle:

Which posuk in this parsha is used in Shemoneh Esrei?

Answer: Hokeil hagodol hagibor v'hanorah.

TIMELESS WISDOM

You shall surely give him, and let your heart not feel bad when you give him... (15:10)

One time a bochur (young man) came to ask Rav Mordechai Sharabi a question. Upon arriving at the house, the bochur noticed a long line of people waiting to see the Rav. Taking his place on line, the bochur opened his sefer and began to learn until his turn came. A little while later it was his turn. Having enjoyed the Torah he was learning, he felt a little reluctant to close his sefer. It then dawned on him how many hours Rav Sharabi was forced to close his sefer in order to help out his fellow Jews.

Immediately upon entering the room of Rav Sharabi, the bochur apologized for having taken the Rav away from his seforim. Rav Sharabi responded, "The posuk says *You shall surely give him, and let your heart not feel bad when you give him...* The words in the chumash are "b'sitcho lo," which can be translated "when you are given to him." Sometimes a person is required to give up of himself for others. It is even in this situation that the Torah warns us, "Do not feel bad when you must sacrifice of yourself for others." It is a mitzvah that we each must perform."

KIDS KORNER

WHO AM I?

#1 WHO AM I ?

1. I must be destroyed.
2. I cause impurity.
3. I can cause the destruction of entire cities.
4. I am strange.

#2 WHO AM I ?

1. I am the soul.
2. Use salt.
3. I am red.
4. I am not stupid.

LAST ISSUE'S ANSWERS

#1 Eikev/Heel (I was for Yaakov; I was for Moshe; the Snake bites me; I am for trampling.)

#2 Second Paragraph of Shema (I am the second of three; I am every morning and evening; I have blessings; I have curses.)

CONGRATULATIONS TO:

Yehuda Green

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 September 30!

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

The Kollel is excited to welcome our newest Kollel Scholar, Rabbi Hillel Shaps!

Hailing from Ner Israel Rabbinical College in Baltimore, Rabbi Shaps is an accomplished scholar and veteran teacher who brings with him a passion to share of his knowledge with the community.

Join Rabbi Shaps for Yesodei Hatorah skills-building Talmud class on Wednesday nights and Jewish Mysticism - A Deeper Look at the Rosh Hashana Prayers on Thursday nights.

SAVE THE DATE! THE GWCK GALA DINNER WILL BE SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 16!