



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.

In this week's Torah portion of Ki Seitzei, chapter 22 verse 10, we read: "You shall not plow with an ox and a donkey together." Though the mitzvah speaks of an ox and a donkey, it applies equally to any two different species working together. As such, the commentators endeavor to clarify as to why the ox and the donkey are featured specifically in this commandment. The answer given is that the ox is the stronger of the two animals and also chews its cud, unlike the donkey. When coupling these two animals together, the donkey experiences great physical and emotional distress. It cannot physically keep pace in tandem with the ox and distresses every moment the ox chews its cud, thinking the ox is enjoying another feeding. This principle is known as "ts'ar ba'alei chayim," causing unnecessary pain and anguish to an animal.

Three times a day we say in our prayer of "Ashrei" that "G-d's mercies are upon all His creations." As G-d is merciful, so are we commanded to be merciful. The great commentator, the Chinuch, draws from this mitzvah that if G-d requires us to be so mindful in bringing diverse animal species into an adverse working environment, how much more so are we required to be aware and sensitive when bringing individual people together interactively. Whether it is in the workplace or a social setting, be it children or adults, we understand how sensitive and responsible we need to be to foster associations and relationships that will bring harmony and peace rather than conflict and dissension.

Shabbat Shalom,
Rabbi Kalman Winter

TABLE TALK

POINT TO PONDER

The mother is roosting on the young birds or the eggs; you shall not take the mother with the young (22:6).

When the bird is sitting without the young, then it is permissible to take the mother for food. Yet, as soon as there are young birds or eggs present, one is not allowed to take the mother. Why? How does the existence of the young birds/eggs create a prohibition on the mother?

PARSHA RIDDLE

When you will go out to war against your enemy... (21:10)

The final letters of these words in the Torah spell "Ohalecha"/ your tents (Chida).

What is the Torah trying to teach us?

Please see next week's issue for the answer.

Last issue's riddle:

What is the connection between an unworthy judge and an Asheira tree?

Answer: One who appoints an unworthy judge is considered as if he served an asheira tree.

TIMELESS WISDOM

If a bird's nest happens to be before you on the road... (22:6)

If a person finds a nest on a person's head, is that subject to the rules of shiluach hakein? (Chulin 139)

Rav Ezra Attia was giving a shiur on the above gemara when one of the attendees questioned: "Is such a thing possible? Why does the gemara ask questions for things that will never happen?" Rav Ezra tried to answer but the attendee would simply not listen to the proffered answers. Rav Ezra was concerned that the questioner was mocking and that this behavior would negatively affect the rest of the group. Therefore, he quietly asked Hashem for assistance.

A few minutes later one of the previous regular attendees of the shiur entered. The gentleman had not been there for a while, so Rav Ezra asked him if everything was alright. The man responded that he had been away and related the following. "I was away on business in India. People there do such strange things. There was one guy who was sitting in the same spot meditating for days on end. I saw a bird come and build a nest on his head, and the guy did not even try to shoo it away. What do you say to that?" Rav Ezra emphatically answered, "Moshe emes v'Toraso emes! / Moshe and his Torah are true!"

KIDS KORNER

WHO AM I?

#1 WHO AM I ?

1. I am a mixture.
2. For tzitzis I am ok.
3. I am for clothes.
4. I am for the priestly garments.

#2 WHO AM I ?

1. I am punished for planning.
2. Usually I get my plan.
3. Sometimes I get whipped.
4. I am for being in the wrong place at the right time.

LAST ISSUE'S ANSWERS

#1 Witnesses/Aidim (I must be two; I can't be related; I must be questioned; in Shema I am large.)

#2 Reasons why a soldier is excused from wars. (A new house; a new vineyard; a new wife; I am afraid.)

CONGRATULATIONS TO:

Liam Ratner

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 Shabbos Project is coming to Greater Washington!

October 24/25, 2014

www.theshabbosproject.com

For more information, to join a family for Shabbos, or to host, contact the DC Shabbos Project Coordinator, Rabbi Yonatan Zakem, at yzakem@gwckollel.org

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

