



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 2011.

This week's Torah portion, Ki Savo, speaks to the nation of Israel of the blessings they would enjoy for their observance of the commandments and the curses they would endure for their failure. Chapter 28, verse 13 relates the following blessing: "You shall be only above and you shall not be below." The Kotzker Rebbe, of blessed memory, interprets the verse as follows: G-d created a ladder from which the souls of the upper world would descend to the world below into the bodies of human beings. No sooner do the souls descend than the ladder from above is removed. From Heaven the call goes forth to the souls: "Return, return!!" The souls, heeding the call, desire to return, but alas, there is no ladder.

Three groups of souls emerge. One group, observing there is no ladder, gives up immediately in its quest to return Above. The second group is more tenacious and jumps Heavenward repeatedly in an attempt to go back to its roots Above. However, with time, it too succumbs to its earthly abode below, acclimating itself to its new environment. The third group remains determined to soar Heavenward and return to its place of origin. With every failure, it regroups with new vigor and strength. What distinguishes this group is that it maintains to continuously hear the Heavenly voice from Above, "Return, return!!" unabated. Eventually, the Lord Himself turns to this third group and lifts it above. As the Rabbis say, "One who comes to purify himself is divinely assisted." Heavenly assistance is commensurate with the measure of the desire and sincerity we exhibit in our effort to return to our spiritual roots. G-d lifts, "with both hands," those whose will it is to meet the challenge and go forth. With assistance from Above, there is no limit to our capacity for growth and ultimate success. Ours is but to do and G-d will do the rest.

This, then, is the meaning of the blessing "You shall be only above and you shall not be below." Our aspirations should always be Heavenward, never complacent and acclimated to those values which are below.

Shabbat Shalom,
Rabbi Kalman Winter

TABLE TALK

POINT TO PONDER

You shall take of every fruit of the ground... (26:2)

The produce of the Shivas HaMinim are subject to the laws of Bikurim (Rashi).

As most of the Shivas HaMinim grow from trees, why does the Torah reference them as "fruit of the ground"?

PARSHA RIDDLE

Where is there a reference to the mitzva of Tefillin in this week's parsha?

Please see next week's issue for the answer.

Last issue's riddle:

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

The final letters of these words in the Torah spells "Ohalecha" which means 'your tents.' (Chida)

What is the Torah trying to teach?

Answer: That it is in the merit of the "tents" - the Batei Midrashim - that the battles are won (Makos 10a).

TIMELESS WISDOM

And you shall come (with your Bikurim) to whoever will be the Kohen in those days... (26:3)

You should go to the Kohen in your days, the way he is (Rashi).

Rav Zushe of Hanipoli was a great and humble man. There was one villager who recognized the greatness of Rav Zushe, and began to assist Rav Zushe financially.

On one occasion the villager came to Rav Zushe's home, but Rav Zushe was away on a visit to his Rebbi, the Magid of Mezritch. The villager was excited, "Why should I spend my money on the student? I might as well forget about him, and go support the Rebbi."

A little bit of time passed, and the villager realized that his financial situation was quickly declining. Uncertain about his recent turn of events, the village decided to pay a visit to Rav Zushe.

After hearing the entire story, Rav Zushe told him, "You decided to scrutinize if I was worthy of your support, and you decided that my Rebbi was more worthy than I. Hashem treated you the same, and scrutinized you, and He decided that there is someone else more worthy than you that should have your wealth."

The villager immediately began supporting his local Rav Zushe, and his fortune turned around for the good.

KIDS KORNER

WHO AM I?

#1 WHO AM I?

1. You tie me.
2. You bring me.
3. You wave me.
4. You save me.

#2 WHO AM I?

1. I divided the people.
2. The bad for Evil.
3. I had blessings.
4. I had curses.

LAST ISSUE'S ANSWERS

#1 Shatnez (I am a mixture; for tzitzit I am ok; I am for clothes; I am for the priestly garments.)

#2 Aidim Zomimim/Conspiring Witnesses (I am punished for planning; usually I get my plan; sometimes I get whipped; I am for being in the wrong place at the right time.)

CONGRATULATIONS TO:

Eli Herman

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

Men and women of the community are invited to a Pre-Rosh Hashana Symposium.

Come to an evening of inspiration featuring words of insight from Rabbis of our community.

Monday, September 22, 8:00 PM, at the Kollel, 10900 Lockwood Drive

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

