



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.

As we begin Genesis, we are introduced to struggles, conflicts, temptations, righteousness, and courage of many individuals, and draw strength, wisdom, and guidance from their collective experience and behavior.

The parsha of Noach speaks of the great deluge that engulfed the entire world, wiping out all life, save the eight members of the family of Noach and representative species of all animal and plant life. Upon the termination of the flood, Noach sends forth the raven (chapter 7, verse 7) to test the waters. If the waters had receded sufficiently, some form of plant life would now exist and the raven would return with it "in hand." The Torah records that the raven kept "going and returning" until all the waters had subsided upon the earth. The Rabbis comment that the raven never did fulfill its mission. It circled the ark the entire time, never going forth to advise Noach of the status of the receding waters. It was left to the dove to complete the task.

The Chofetz Chaim draws a great lesson from the conduct of the raven. As hard as Noach had tried to elicit from the raven the information he desired, he did not succeed. One needs merit to be an instrument for good. The raven, cruel by nature, did not have the privilege to be instrumental in the earliest stages of the rebuilding of the world. Similarly, man needs merit to have the privilege and opportunity to assist and provide for others in both communal and personal matters. When the opportunity knocks to do good, we should seize it and see it as a confirmation and validation from Above of oneself, that we have been so chosen. Having done the deed, we should be infused with humility and gratitude, never with conceit and false pride. As the Rabbis comment: G-d brings merit through the meritorious.

Shabbat Shalom,

Rabbi Kalman Winter

TABLE TALK

POINT TO PONDER

Make for yourself a Teivah of gopher wood... (6:14)

A boat is called an "aniya" or a "sefina." Why is the Teivah called a Teivah, which means an ark or a box?

PARSHA RIDDLE

Then he sent the raven...until the waters dried from the earth (8:7).

Noach did not want to allow the raven into the Teivah. Hashem told him, "There will be a time in history when the raven will be needed." Noach asked Hashem, "When?" Hashem told him, "When the water will be dried from the earth" for there will be a time when a righteous person (Eliyahu HaNavi) will dry up the earth with a drought, and the ravens will be used to feed him (Breishis Rabba 33:5).

Where is Eliyahu Hanavi hinted to in the posuk?

Please see next week's issue for the answer.

Last issue's riddle:

How could a person be transgressing an aveira while building a sukkah (on a weekday)? Answer: If he builds it on Har HaBayis.

TIMELESS WISDOM

For the earth is filled with robbery... and behold I am about to destroy them... (6:13)

A widow lived with her young children in the rental property of a wealthy Jew. She worked hard to support her family, but her monthly rental fees sometimes went unpaid. During one difficult year, it had been months since she was able to fully pay her rent, and her landlord evicted her. She protested and begged: "It is the middle of the winter! Can we wait until the weather warms a little so I do not have to expose my children to such inclement conditions?" Instead of agreeing, he removed part of the roof of the apartment, allowing the freezing winter wind to penetrate the house.

Without an option, the widow gathered her belongings and left the apartment, to the mercy of the elements. Luckily, some other people took her in, and with time, the memory of this callousness was forgotten.

The Chofetz Chaim was a teenager at the time, and was certain that Hashem would take retribution from the landlord, so he made sure not to forget the incident. Ten years passed and the landlord continued to live a successful life, until one day he was bitten by a sick dog. Within a couple days he began to bark like a dog, and began to suffer terrible pain. Within two weeks, the landlord died.

Nothing goes unpunished or unrewarded.

KIDS KORNER

WHO AM I?

#1 WHO AM I ?

1. I was above the mountains.
2. I rested on a mountain.
3. I was for survival.
4. In the end I was used to kill.

#2 WHO AM I ?

1. I had a tower.
2. I have gemora.
3. I am mixed up.
4. I am not a bubble.

LAST ISSUE'S ANSWERS

#1 Sukkah (I was for cattle; I was cloudy; I make you move; my name describes my design.)

#2 Shemini Atzeres/Simchas Torah (I have a siyum; I make you circle; I make you rejoice; I am the day to say goodbye.)

CONGRATULATIONS TO:

Yehuda and Penina 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

Win a
JUMBO BANANAGRAMS GAME

Please visit www.gwckollel.org to submit your answers.

The next raffle will be held on December 2!

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

Join us at our Gala Dinner as we continue the legacy of Rabbi Kalman Winter zt"l and celebrate our 7th year of Jewish Outreach and Education.

**Honoring Rabbi Stephen & Mrs. Ruth Baars and Dr. Marc & Mrs. Debbie Katz
Sunday November 16, 2014, 5 PM at Beth Sholom Congregation, Potomac, MD**

**Make reservations now or place messages and ads in the ad journal at www.gwckollel.org.
Ads will be published in a commemorative printing of a unique Jewish history book to be distributed at the dinner.**