



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 2009.***

This week's Torah reading details the challenges and pain of our matriarch, Rivka, during her difficult pregnancy. Chapter 25, verse 22 records, "the children agitated within her and she said, 'if so, why am I thus,' and she went to inquire of G-d, and G-d said to her, 'two nations are in your womb, etc.'" The prophet Shem, communicating the word of G-d, told her that she was to have twins; two great nations that will strive and struggle against each other until the end of time. It appears from the text that upon hearing from the prophet, she was now mollified and at peace from her initial distress.

The commentaries question, what new information did the prophet convey that now provided her peace of mind? Was, then, two nations, forever at odds, a source of relief? The answer is found in the midrash. The word used in the Torah's text for agitated is "vayisrotzitzu," which, from the word "ratz," means to run. The midrash says that when Rivka passed a house of idolatry, her child in utero propelled forth, and when she passed a house of study, the child again pushed forth. Her great fear and distress was not of a physical nature, but rather of a child without identity, a child without principle, without belief, forever confused, conflicted and confounded. One moment, the child is an idolater, the next moment, he is a scholar. However, when the prophet informed Rivka that this was not one child alone, internally conflicted, rather two separate children, each one of a different ideological bent, this encouraged Rivka to identify her challenges as a mother and plan her strategies as how to best deal with the forthcoming birth of such diverse and opposite personalities.

We all face varying challenges in life. Our greatest growth and development is primarily achieved through challenge and adversity. These challenges are our stepping stones to true personal greatness. However, this can only be achieved with an understanding of the nature and dimension of the challenge at hand. Only when Rivka understood clearly her challenge was she able to find peace of mind and spirit.

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](mailto:info@gwckollel.org).*

## TABLE TALK

### POINT TO PONDER

**“Now sharpen, if you please, your gear... and catch game for me” (27:3).**

*From that which is ownerless and not from which is stolen (Rashi).*

Until now, we don't find that Yitzchok warned Esav not to bring stolen food. Why did Yitzchok find it necessary, in this instance specifically, to warn Esav not to bring stolen food? If Yitzchok was concerned that Esav was stealing, he should have reprimanded him long ago regarding this behavior!

### PARSHA RIDDLE

**Why should I be bereaved of both of you on the same day? (27:45)**

**How is this prophecy fulfilled?**

Please see next week's issue for the answer.

**Last issue's riddle:**

**Which two people had water come up for them?**

**Answer:** Rikva and Pharaoh.

## TIMELESS WISDOM

In Amsterdam, Holland, there were two communities - the Sefardic community and the Ashkenazic community. Rav Shlomo Ilion was the Rov of the Sefardic community, while the Chacham Tzvi was the Rov of the Ashkenazic community.

Shortly after assuming the position as Rov, the Chacham Tzvi needed to meet with Rav Ilion regarding communal matters. Arriving at Rav Ilion's home, the Chacham Tzvi was shocked to see the beauty of the home. He asked Rav Ilion, "Is this the way a Torah Scholar lives? There seems to be too much emphasis on the physical." Rav Ilion answered, "We are expecting the king to come, and so the house has been spruced up." The Chacham Tzvi asked, "When is the king coming?" Rav Ilion answered, "I believe he has arrived already." Knowing the punishment awaiting one who does not accord the king the proper honor, the Chacham Tzvi asked, "Where is he?" Rav Ilion answered, "He fills the entire home. When a person builds a house based on Torah values, integrating Torah study into his home, Hashem comes to rest His Presence there (Avos 3:6). Therefore, I try to build my home on these principles, and I hope that Hashem is happy with it, and will rest His Presence here. For this reason I try to keep my home in a way that is befitting of Hashem's Honor."

The Chacham Tzvi commented, "Fortunate is a community that could have a Rov, with such a sense of the truth about Hashem."

## KIDS KORNER

### WHO AM I?

#### #1 WHO AM I ?

1. I caused kicking.
2. I caused the missing Aleph.
3. I was complete.
4. I am named for a color.

#### #2 WHO AM I ?

1. I am named for my grasp.
2. My name can mean trickery.
3. I was named for my battle.
4. Am I the firstborn?

#### LAST ISSUE'S ANSWERS

**#1 The brocho in Sorah's home that returned with Rivka** (I was for the candle, the dough, and the cloud; I was for the 1<sup>st</sup> & 2<sup>nd</sup>.)

**#2 Bakol** (I may be a son; I may be wealth; I may be a daughter; I was a blessing.)

#### CONGRATULATIONS TO:

**Akiva Jacobs**

*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](http://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

**SAVE THE DATE!**

**The Kollel's Chanuka Mesiba will be Tuesday, December 16<sup>th</sup>, at the Kollel. Bring the whole family for dancing, refreshments, music, and Chanuka entertainment!**