



The Greater Washington Community Kollel

SHABBOS DELIGHTS

TORAH MINUTE

IN MEMORY OF RABBI KALMAN WINTER ZT" L

Parshas Vayetzei introduces us to the relationship between our Patriarch Yaakov and his uncle, Lavan. The Pesach Haggadah teaches us that ultimately, Lavan wanted to kill and destroy Yaakov. How did this relationship devolve into one in which Lavan desired to murder his own nephew and son-in-law? What were the seeds of this homicidal hostility? Let us examine their first encounter and perhaps we can find the origins of this enmity.

Fearing for his life due to his brother Eisav's wrath, and at the behest of his father and mother, Yaakov flees his home. He journeys to the home of Lavan, the brother of Rivka, his mother. After the arduous journey to Charan, Yaakov meets Lavan. Yaakov recounts for his uncle the reason for his exile (the danger posed to his life by his brother Eisav) and describes his difficult journey, including being robbed of all his possessions. The greedy Lavan, disappointed that his nephew is now penniless, remarks that he really should not invite Yaakov into his home but, since Yaakov is family, he is *obligated* to care for him (Rashi to verses 29:13,14. See also Shiyurei Chumash).

True, Lavan recognized his familial obligation and its concomitant responsibility. His heart, however, was devoid of the requisite sympathy and compassion for a loved one. Without any accompanying kindred feelings, and coupled with his innate character flaws, Lavan was led to complete alienation and estrangement from Yaakov.

We are often confronted with situations where our fellow brothers and sisters require our assistance - be it from a natural disaster, job loss, a medical diagnosis, or other challenges. Whether they are family, members of our community, or fellow Jews across the globe, lending them a hand is not merely our responsibility and duty; it is an honor and a privilege. We must ensure that our hearts are filled with the brotherly compassion they rightly deserve.

Have a wonderful Shabbos!

Rabbi Menachem Winter

TABLE TALK

POINT TO PONDER

... and Rachel stole the teraphim idols that belonged to her father (31:19).

One should not have idols be brought into one's home (Avoda Zarah 21a).

How could Rachel have brought an idol into her tent, if the Torah prohibits bringing idols into one's home?

PARSHA RIDDLE

How many matzeivos (stone monuments) did Yaakov erect in this Parsha? For what purpose?

Please see next week's issue for the answer.

Last issue's riddle:

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

How was this prophecy fulfilled?

Answer: Yaakov and Eisav both died on the same day.

TIMELESS WISDOM

Leah's eyes were tender... (29:17)

Because she constantly davened that she should not marry Eisav. People used to say: "Rivka has two sons, and Lavan has two daughters. Let the older son (Eisav) marry the older daughter (Leah) and the younger son (Yaakov) marry the younger daughter (Rachel)" (Rashi).

It was therefore due to the power of davening that Leah was able to marry Yaakov (even before Rachel) and not Eisav.

Rav Chaim Churi zt"l was traveling in a cab. As they were driving, he noticed that the sun was beginning to set. Not having davened Mincha yet, Rav Churi asked the Arab driver to stop and allow him to daven. The driver refused. With sunset rapidly approaching, Rav Churi was getting very concerned about Mincha. Suddenly, the car stalled. The driver went to try to fix the problem, but he was unable to get the car running.

Rav Churi quickly got out of the car and davened Mincha. As soon as he finished he asked the driver, "What is with the car?" The driver told him, "I have been unable to fix the problem." Rav Churi told him, "Try to start the car now." The driver tried and immediately the car started. The driver was astounded, "The car died in order to allow you to pray. That is amazing." Such is the importance and power of davening.

KIDS KORNER

WHO AM I?

#1 WHO AM I ?

1. We were many.
2. We were one.
3. We were a pillow.
4. We were for protection.

#2 WHO AM I ?

1. I was older.
2. I cried.
3. I had six boys.
4. I entered Eretz Yisroel.

LAST ISSUE'S ANSWERS

#1 Eisav (I caused kicking; I caused the missing Aleph; I was complete; I am named for a color.)

#2 Yaakov (I am named for my grasp; my name can mean trickery; I was named for my battle; am I the firstborn?)

CONGRATULATIONS TO:

Gabriel Mellman

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

The GWCK, in conjunction with YISE, invites men and women of the community to a special lecture featuring Rabbi Motty Berger of Aish HaTorah on the relevant and timely topic of how we can all get involved in reaching out to those around us entitled, "Building Bridges: Who Are We and Who Are They." Monday, Dec. 8th at 8:00pm at YISE. Admission is free.