



The Greater Washington Community Kollel

SHABBOS DELIGHTS

TORAH MINUTE

IN MEMORY OF RABBI KALMAN WINTER ZT" L

After being sent away from home by his parents in order to protect him from his brother Eisav, Yaakov begins his journey back to his homeland. Separated from his parents for 34 years and now with a large family and much wealth, Yaakov embarks from Charan towards his birthplace and the future Land of Israel. Yaakov prepares for an encounter with the still seething Eisav, sending him a peace tribute, readying his camp for a possible military encounter, and praying to God to protect him and his family from Eisav's wrath.

Yaakov transports his family and possessions across the ford of Yabok. Now alone and separated from the camp, Yaakov is attacked by a "man" and is locked in mortal combat. The sages identify this "man" as a spiritual representative of Eisav and his descendants. Although injured, Yaakov is able to restrain his assailant and compel a blessing from him.

The Talmud (Chullin 91a) tells us that Yaakov found himself alone due to the fact the he had gone back to retrieve some small pitchers of little value that were left behind.

How do we understand why the great Patriarch Yaakov endangered his life in order to procure a few small items? Couldn't he have just left them behind - after all, Yaakov was now a wealthy man?

Yaakov, spiritual giant that he was, related to these seemingly insignificant items from an entirely different perspective. Knowing that his wealth was acquired with honest labor and integrity, Yaakov saw every sum that came into his possession as a gift from Above. These blessings, in turn, were consecrated and destined to be used to fulfill his and his family's sacred mission. Every dollar and resource was another opportunity to draw ever closer to G-d and attain self-perfection. It was because of this understanding of the latent value of his belongings that Yaakov took such great effort to preserve them.

When we assimilate this perspective of Yaakov, the world around us is transformed. Instead of the mundane, we see the sublime. In the place of the ordinary, we perceive the transcendental. And even in what others might view as insignificant, we discern boundless potential. Every dime we possess, every talent we have, and every experience we encounter is invested with the potential to bring us one step closer to realizing the greatness inherent in each of us.

Have a wonderful Shabbos!

Rabbi Menachem Winter

If you would like to sign up to receive the weekly "Shabbos Delights" by email, please send an email to info@gwckollel.org.

TABLE TALK

POINT TO PONDER

... And they (Shimon and Levi) came upon the city confidently and killed every male (34:25).

They took captive all their wealth, children and wives ... (34:29)

Even though the Sons of Yaakov had killed all the males, their children remained alive, and a non-Jew inherits his father according to Torah law (Kiddushin 17a). Why did the Sons of Yaakov take the loot from Shechem?

PARSHA RIDDLE

In which verse in the Torah does every word end with a mem?

Please see next week's issue for the answer.

Last issue's riddle:

Which two monuments did Yaakov erect in this Parsha?

Answer: One before he left Eretz Yisrael for Lavan's house, and the second as a sign of peace between him and Lavan when he left.

TIMELESS WISDOM

Yaakov became very frightened ... so he divided the people with him ... into two camps (32:8).

As the First World War progressed, the front lines were coming closer to Radin. Refugees from the destroyed cities were running through the town as they fled the battle zone. The bochurim in the Yeshiva were concerned what they should do. The Rosh Yeshiva, Rav Tzvi Levinson, and his father-in-law, the Chofetz Chaim, were deliberating the best option, as it was dangerous to run and to stay.

One day, the bochurim were able to hear the explosions of the cannons and saw the smoke of the battle lines. Knowing time was running out they went to the Rosh Yeshiva. Rav Levinson told them, "I do not know what to do, so let us do the goral haGra." With a tefilla to Hashem, the goral was done, and the Tanach opened to the verse "Yaakov became very frightened... so he divided the people with him... into two camps." The answer was obvious - they would divide the Yeshiva into two groups, which would allow them to escape easily.

With these results the Rosh Yeshiva and the bochurim came to the Chofetz Chaim. As soon as the Chofetz Chaim saw them approaching, he told them, "I know why you are coming, I also hear the cannons and see the smoke. I was torn what to do, so I was contemplating doing a goral haGra, but then I remembered the words of Rav Chaim Voloziner (Ruach Chaim 6;9) that in every doubtful situation in which a person finds himself, he should follow the advice of the Torah. Every answer is in the Torah. One who does this will never fail."

"So why do I need to do the goral? The answer is clearly in the Torah, as the verse says, Yaakov became very frightened... so he divided the people with him ... into two camps. Clearly we should divide into two camps."

KIDS KORNER

WHO AM I?

#1 WHO AM I ?

1. I was Eisav's army.
2. I equal tough.
3. I was for strangers in a strange land.
4. I was payment for the Me'aras Hamachpeila.

#2 WHO AM I ?

1. I caused a walking impediment.
2. I caused an eating prohibition.
3. I am named for my displacement.
4. What a nerve!

LAST ISSUE'S ANSWERS

#1 The stones Yaakov placed around his head (We were many; we were one; we were a pillow; we were for protection.)

#2 Leah (I was older; I cried; I had six boys; I entered Eretz Yisroel.)

CONGRATULATIONS TO:

Bashah Chaya Seemann

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

Remote Control

Quadcopter !

Congratulations to Zevi Kreiser who won a Jumbo Banagrams game in the last raffle!

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

The next raffle will be held on January 27th.

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 the Kollel for our annual

CHANUKAH FESTIVAL!

Come enjoy delicious Chanukah refreshments and dancing with music from Kol HaLev. Featuring a special theater performance by Shlomo Horwitz and a magic show for children!

Tuesday, Dec. 16th, at 7:00 p.m.