



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.

This week's Torah Portion details the many crises and hardships that Joseph endures prior to his appointment as Viceroy of Egypt. Falsely accused and cast into jail, Joseph finds himself incarcerated with two officers of King Pharaoh, sentenced for their own crimes. The Chief Butler and Chief Baker each have a vivid dream and turn to Joseph to decipher them. The Torah recounts Joseph's interpretations of those dreams, which then come to fruition.

The butler fares far better with his dream than does the baker. While the baker is put to death, the butler is returned to his former position. Upon his reappointment, Joseph asks the Chief Butler to mention his own plight to Pharaoh, in the hope that the butler's intercession might result in Joseph's release from prison. The Torah records (Chapter 40, Verse 23): "And the Chief Butler did not remember Joseph (to Pharaoh) and he forgot him." The Talmud comments that Joseph was punished from Above for putting his trust in the butler. He was to remain in prison two more years.

It is most difficult to comprehend the nature of Joseph's error. A fundamental principle of Jewish conduct is the use of appropriate, natural means to pursue one's objective. It was only natural for Joseph to make an ally of the butler to secure his freedom.

The Rabbis comment: True, Joseph acted correctly in securing the butler's assistance. However, Joseph was not justified in putting his trust and faith in him. Although the world appears to operate according to "teva" (nature), with events appearing to flow naturally, we believe that all that transpires is a product of G-d's direct intervention. The growth of every, individual seed is because G-d so wills it. It is the force from Above that gives life to that seed each and every day, because G-d has determined that man's effort should be crowned with success.

Joseph, great and noble, whose every decision emanated from his supreme faith and trust in G-d, misplaced that trust and faith this one time, imagining that the butler could indeed be the source of his salvation. If we truly appreciated and understood that all our good fortune and blessings are from the One Above, how much more meaningful and personal our relationship with G-d would be.

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.

TABLE TALK

POINT TO PONDER

Yehuda said, "Take her (Tamar) out and let her be burned!" (38:24)

The Tanna Ephraim Maksha said in the name of Rav Meir, "She (Tamar) was the daughter of Shem who was a Kohen. The judges sentenced her to be put to death by burning, as is the sentence of a daughter of a Kohen who commits adultery (Rashi).

Since Shem blessed Avraham before blessing Hashem, he lost the merit of having his descendants be Kohanim. This honor was given to the descendants of Avraham (Nedarim 32b).

Since Shem's status as a Kohen was not transferred to his children, Tamar did not have the status of a daughter of a Kohen. If so, why should she be judged like a daughter of a Kohen?

PARSHA RIDDLE

Where do we mention the kesones passim in davening?

Please see next week's issue for the answer.

Last issue's riddle:

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

Answer: 32:15

TIMELESS WISDOM

Then there was an opportune time... to do his work... (39:11)

Yosef entered to acquiesce to the constant requests of Potiphar's wife. Then the visage of his father, Yaakov, appeared to him, saying that he would lose his name on the Choshen that the Kohen Gadol would wear. When Yosef heard this, he strengthened his resolve to withstand the present temptation for a promising future (Sotah 36b).

The following story was related in Novardok. There was a group of low life drunkards who spent their days drinking and doing nothing. One day they began to fear what they would tell Hashem after they pass from this world. So they made a pact between themselves that whoever would die first should come back and report on the judgment in Heaven, and how they should make certain that they merit a good judgment.

A short time later one of the group got sick with liver disease because of his excessive drinking, and died. Within a few days he appeared to his friends in a dream. His face was black and he looked terrible. "How is everything?" they asked him. He responded, "Continue drinking, but make sure you do not drink whiskey." And with that he related his encounter with the Heavenly court.

"I came upstairs and they asked me, "Why did you not learn Torah?" I told them I was foolish and never anticipated what the future may bring, so I wasted my time drinking. "Did you drink wine?" they asked me, and I told them all the wines I drank. "Did you drink whiskey?" they asked me. I quickly answered in the affirmative. "How could you drink whiskey? It does not taste good!" I told them, you are right, the immediate taste of whiskey may not be so good, but the warmth and the good feeling it gives you after is worth it all."

"That did me in. I had proved that I was able to do something which was a little uncomfortable now, for a future gain. The Heavenly court proved that I should have learned Torah, even though it may be difficult to go out and learn, but the warmth and the good feeling that Torah study generates should make it all worth it. For that I was sent to gehenom."

KIDS KORNER

WHO AM I?

#1 WHO AM I ?

1. I was caused by tranquility.
2. I was caused by dreams.
3. I was to Egypt.
4. I was a blessing in disguise.

#2 WHO AM I ?

1. I caused jealousy.
2. I was a proof of death.
3. I was a sign of love.
4. I was colorful.

LAST ISSUE'S ANSWERS

#1 400 (I was Eisav's army; I equal tough; I was for strangers in a strange land; I was payment for the Me'aras Hamachpeila.)

#2 Gid Hanosheh/Sciatic Nerve

(I caused a walking impediment; I caused an eating prohibition; I am named for my displacement; what a nerve!)

CONGRATULATIONS TO:

Rabbi Biberfeld's 4th Grade Boys

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 !



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!

THIS TUESDAY!

KOLLEL BULLETIN BOARD

Bring the whole family to 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.