



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.

Perhaps the most well-known question in all of halachic literature is the Beis Yosef's question about the Chanukah lighting. The Jewish people, after finally vanquishing the Greeks, turned their attention to the Temple which had been in the hands of their enemy. Desperate to resume the service of lighting the menorah, they searched for a cruse of oil, sealed and marked for its purity. After much searching, one cruse was indeed found, but no more were located. Overjoyed, they lit the menorah; however their concern remained. It would take eight days to manufacture new oil, but the cruse would only last one day. What would they do tomorrow? And the next day?

Their concern was substituted with joy and gratitude as the miracle of Chanukah unfolded. That small cruse of oil continued to burn for eight days, allowing for the processing of new oil. In commemoration, the leaders of the generation established the holiday of Chanukah to eternalize the miracle. But why, wonders the Beis Yosef, is Chanukah celebrated for eight days when apparently the miracle was only for seven days, given that the oil was sufficient to burn one day in any event?

Many wonderful and insightful answers are given to this famous question. I would like to share with you an answer from the Alter of Kelm. When we observe the world around us, its beauty and luster, its power and magnificence, its intricacy and design, we should in truth see the omnipotent hand of G-d. However, because of the regularity of the world that we live in with its seeming predictability, we cease to see G-d's hand in a beautiful sunset and no longer hear G-d's calling in the melodious singing of the songbird. We ascribe the world around us to "nature" and look no deeper.

When a miracle occurs, or an unaccountable phenomenon transpires, we then see G-d's hand and mastery. We acknowledge that it is G-d indeed that guides us and sustains us. Through this miracle, says the Alter, we are now able to extrapolate and see G-d in all of nature that surrounds us. We realize that the everyday wonders of the human body, the expanse of the universe, and the mysteries of the sea, can only be formed and fashioned by G-d himself. Indeed, this is the lesson of miracles.

This, then, is an answer to our question. When a cruse of oil, which by the laws of nature should only burn one day, instead burns for eight days, we are shown that all that transpires, whether it be an everyday occurrence or a once-in-history event, is but the will of G-d. It is this miracle, the miracle of "nature", now recognized as G-d's will, that we celebrate with the eighth candle.

This Chanukah, may the light of the candles illuminate our world, allowing us to see G-d manifest all around us, guiding us, protecting us, and embracing us.

Happy Chanukah,

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

Pharaoh was dreaming that behold – he was standing over the river... (41:1)

Pharaoh said to Yosef, "In my dream, behold! I was standing on the bank of the river... (41:17)

In his dream, Pharaoh saw himself standing over the river, and when relating the dream, he stated that he was standing on the river bank. Why did he change the story?

PARSHA RIDDLE

For how many years were Bnai Yisrael in Mitzrayim? Where is that hinted to in the parsha?

Please see next week's issue for the answer.

Last issue's riddle:

Where do we mention the kesones passim in davening?

Answer: In the tefilla at the end of Birchas Kohanim.

TIMELESS WISDOM

Few in the hands of the many... (Al Hanisim)

Rav Shach was an old man already, and he was very weak. Rav Avrohom Tzvi Taub happened to be staying with Rav Shach when a bochur appeared at the door. Rav Taub informed Rav Shach of the bochur's presence, whereupon Rav Shach stood up and went to greet the bochur. After a very warm greeting, Rav Shach asked to be left alone with the boy for a few minutes. An hour passed while Rav Shach spoke with the bochur. When they finished, the boy left with a shining, radiant face.

Rav Taub was shocked and asked Rav Shach, "Even if you were not the leader of our generation, is it not beyond the call of duty for an old and weak man to assist a fourteen year old boy like that? You barely have enough strength for yourself, and yet you gave up an hour for this bochur. Why?"

Rav Shach responded, "This boy has some issues, and there is no guaranteed way to heal him. We must rely on Hashem to save him through a miracle. I want Hashem to perform that miracle, but it is outside of Hashem's normative behavior to perform such miracles. Therefore, I purposely went outside of my own normative behavior for this boy. Hashem repays in kind. I hope that if Hashem sees how I went beyond my norm in order to help this boy, He too will also go beyond His norm for this boy."

KIDS KORNER

WHO AM I?

#1 WHO AM I ?

1. For the Mavoi I am no good.
2. I do not work for a Sukkah.
3. I could invalidate your Menorah.
4. I was for the pit.

#2 WHO AM I ?

1. I was for the arms of the Menorah.
2. I was for the cows.
3. I am for Shmittah.
4. I was for the wheat.

LAST ISSUE'S ANSWERS

#1 The Sale of Yosef (I was caused by tranquility & dreams; I was to Egypt; I was a blessing in disguise.)

#2 Kesones Pasim/Yosef's Coat (I caused jealousy; I was a proof of death and a sign of love; I was colorful.)

CONGRATULATIONS TO:

Tamar Stiber

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!

KOLLEL BULLETIN BOARD

MONDAY NIGHTS AT THE KOLLEL!

There are two exciting classes at the Kollel every Monday night!

At 8:15, join "The A to Z of Jewish Living" with Rabbi Gayer for Jewish philosophy and life lessons from the Peleh Yoetz. Rabbi Schwartz explores the depth of the stories and lessons from the book of Genesis in "The Book of Genesis: Foundations of Eternity." Or bring your chavrusa and take advantage of the lively Beis Medrash!