



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, Vayechi, bids farewell to our patriarchs and their distinguished children, the twelve tribes of Israel. The Torah records, Chapter 49 Verse 28, that Jacob, before his death, blesses each of his children, forming the foundation for our nation Israel to grow and prosper. However, a reading of the blessings reveals that the words and thoughts Jacob directed to his children were not blessings, rather prophetic insights into the strengths and weaknesses of their respective personalities and character. What, then, is the meaning of the Torah when it characterizes his final words to them as a blessing? The Torah is teaching us magnificent life lessons. The greatest blessing a parent can bestow upon a child is to give them an understanding and appreciation of their strengths and weaknesses. This allows them to know themselves with clarity and objectivity in order to make life choices which are both meaningful and productive. Jacob's parting words were truly a profound blessing. He sent each of his children on the path of their national destiny, guiding and directing them with the knowledge of their unique and special gifts and characteristics to maximize their strengths and minimize their weaknesses. The biggest blessing of all is to know thyself.

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

So Yosef went to bury his father, and with him went all of Pharaoh's servants, the elders of his household, and all the elders of Mitzrayim, and all of Yosef's household... his brothers... (50:7,8)

Yosef returned to Mitzrayim – he and his brothers, and all who had gone up with him to bury his father... (50:14)

Why are Yosef's brothers listed last on the ascent to Eretz Yisrael, and listed first on the descent to Mitzrayim?

PARSHA RIDDLE

And Yisrael bowed towards the head of the bed (47:31).

Which halachos are derived from this posuk?

Last issue's riddle:

Please see next week's issue for the answer.

And now do not be distressed... (45:5)

Why only now? In the future will Bnai Yisrael be distressed about the sale of Yosef?

Answer: Yes, because there will be times when Hashem will send punishments, because of the sale of Yosef (as we see from the Asara Harugei Malchus).

TIMELESS WISDOM

By you shall Bnai Yisrael bless, saying, "May Hashem make you like Ephraim and Menashe" (48:20).

One who wants to bless his sons will bless them that they shall be like Ephraim and Menashe (Rashi).

Rav Yaakov Aryeh Mardzimon zt"l met a young person and began to talk with him. During the conversation, Rav Yaakov Aryeh asked the man, "What are your goals?" He replied, "I hope to be a regular person, I have no aspirations to become anything great, I wish I could develop to be a good, normal person." Rav Yaakov Aryeh chastised him, "When I was young I dreamed of becoming a Gadol, and that is why I was successful in becoming a good, regular person. If you aspire to be a regular person, what will become of you?"

Even though Ephraim and Menashe seem to be goals a little too high for our children, a person must set his or her aspirations high in order to achieve even the minimal.

KIDS KORNER

WHO AM I?

#1 WHO AM I ?

1. I am for "all the youth."
2. I am for your bed.
3. Some sing me.
4. I am fishy business.

#2 WHO AM I ?

1. The serpent is my reference.
2. I was a "crown".
3. My prayer is mentioned in this parsha.
4. In my blindness I killed thousands.

LAST ISSUE'S ANSWERS

#1 Bais HaMikdosh (My future destruction caused crying; the neck is my reference; the origin of my trees gives me my name; I am for Yehuda and Binyomin.)

#2 Seventy (I am for the nations; I could be an eye; I was for those descending; I am the faces of the Torah.)

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

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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!

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