



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 2011.**

This week's Parsha of Shelach speaks of the ill-fated mission of the twelve spies sent by Moshe to survey the Land of Israel. Twelve of the most qualified individuals were chosen for this critical task. Among their many objectives was to determine the fertility of the land. "...Are there trees in it or not?... (chapter 13, verse 20) This is most difficult to understand, for surely the Land of Israel possessed trees. The great commentator Rashi notes that trees are not referenced here as physical entities, but rather it is a metaphor for individuals possessing righteousness and piety. As a tree that provides both shade and protection for all who gather beneath her, so too a righteous person reaches forth to envelop and protect from both harm and calamity all the inhabitants of the land.

The inhabitants of Canaan, with all their cruelty and wickedness, would have been spared had there been but one righteous individual in their midst. The entire Jewish nation poised to enter the holy land with the mandate from Above would nevertheless have been thwarted and stymied had there been but one solitary person of substance in Canaan. So is the power and potential greatness inherent in every individual. We possess influence and the capacity to literally pierce the Heavens and shake the earthly foundation. One person can affect the course of history by their actions and behavior. As foreign and remote as this sounds and appears, it is only Torah that has the authority and wisdom to share and instruct us regarding the dynamics of man's potential and his relationship to the world at large. The most powerful force in the universe is not the atom. It is the energy latent within each and every one of us. Each of us is a veritable, awesome tree of life for ourselves and all in our midst.

*Have a wonderful Shabbos!*

*Rabbi Menachem Winter*

## TABLE TALK

### POINT TO PONDER

***They arrived at the Valley of Eshkol and cut from there a vine with one cluster of grapes, and bore it on a double pole... (13:23)***

*One is not allowed to prune a tree on Shemitta (Berochos 36b).*

*Even without the prohibition of Shemitta one cannot cut off a part of a fruit bearing tree (Shoftim 20:19)... (Tosfos ibid)*

How were the Meraglim allowed to cut off part of the vine? That should be prohibited as part of the prohibition against cutting off part of a fruit bearing tree!

### PARSHA RIDDLE

**The anniversary for which Jewish historical event will be this week?**

Please see next week's issue for the answer.

**Last week's riddle:** What connection is there between our Parsha and Shlomo Hamelech's throne?

**Answer:** The image of the Menorah was engraved on the back of Shlomo HaMelech's chair.

### HATORAH V'HAMITZVAH HALACHA INSIGHTS FROM THE PARSHA

*Parshas Shelach* relates the catastrophic affair of the spies and the resulting decree of universal death to the then-adult Jewish population and delay of the nation's entry to the Promised Land by several decades. R. Yaakov Emden explains that just as our ancestors committed the sin of rejecting the Land, so, too, have we repeatedly committed this sin throughout our history, becoming too comfortable in exile and neglecting the imperative to remember the Land and to yearn for it. This forgetting of the Land and assimilation into our host cultures is the reason for all the evil that has befallen the Jews in Spain and other lands (*Sidur Beis Yaakov, Sulam Beis E-I*).

While many Jews throughout the generations, some famous and some anonymous, did attempt to immigrate to *Eretz Yisrael*, sometimes succeeding and sometimes failing, the majority have never attempted *aliyah*. *Halachic* authorities have offered a number of justifications for this, and exemptions from and limitations of the imperative to immigrate to and settle the Land (e.g. R. Emden *ibid.*; *Shut. Ha'Elef Lecha Shlomo EH siman 118*; and see the extensive literature cited in *Otzar Ha'Poskim EH siman 75 Kuntres Yishuv Eretz Yisrael*). One of the primary dispensations derives from the potential dangers of the trip: throughout much of history, sea travel entailed the risks of piracy and shipwreck, and overland travel the risk of brigandry. It is generally accepted that one need not risk one's life to travel to *Eretz Yisrael*, although it is less clear whether such self-endangerment is actually forbidden, or whether one who wishes may assume at least some level of risk (*Tosafos Kesubos 110b s.v. hu omer la'alos*; *Shut. Rashbash #1-3*; *OHP s.k. 3*).

PRESENTED BY RABBI YITZHAK GROSSMAN, ROSH CHABURA

## KIDS KORNER

### WHO AM I?

#### #1 WHO AM I?

1. I was one of the Ten.
2. My daughter gave the shiur for her husband.
3. You are a Jester if you do not learn with your friend.
4. I was buried in the city of Rabbi Yehuda HaNasi.
5. I was a well known Gabai Tzedoka.

#### #2 WHO AM I?

1. I am said daily.
2. Strings attached.
3. I remind you about the Throne.
4. I equal 613.

Please see next week's issue for the answers

#### Last Issue's Answers:

**#1 Rav Yeruchom Levovits\*** (I was for people food; my Rabbeim were the "Old Ones"; I gave you Torah & Mussar knowledge; I lived during the 1<sup>st</sup> World War; I was the Mashgiach in Mir.)

**#2 Miryam** (I waited; therefore Bnai Yisroel waited; I was a Prophetess; I caused my parents to marry.)

\* *Rav Yeruchom Levovits was the Mashgiach for the bochurim in the Yeshiva in Radin and then in the Yeshiva in Mir. He lived from 1873-1936, and learned by the Alter (Elder) of Slabodka and the Alter of Kelm. He wrote the Seforim Da'as Torah and Da'as Chochma u'Mussar.*

All children 13 and under who answer a "Who Am I?" correctly will be entered into a raffle to win a super prize. The next raffle will be July 21<sup>st</sup>.

Visit [www.gwckollel.org](http://www.gwckollel.org) to submit your answers. Answer as many as you can because each correct answer will entitle you to another raffle ticket and increase your chances of winning.

## KOLLEL BULLETIN BOARD

The Kollel, in conjunction with YISE, invites men and women of the community to a Jewish Ethics lecture.

Rabbi Moshe Walter will be speaking on the topic of

***"The Dialogue Between the Rabbi and Questioner in the Halachic Process."***

Sunday, June 28<sup>th</sup>, at 9:30 AM

At Young Israel Shomrai Emunah, 1132 Arcola Avenue