



The Greater Washington Community Kollel

SHABBOS DELIGHTS

TORAH MINUTE

IN MEMORY OF RABBI KALMAN WINTER ZT"L

Korach, a prominent fellow Levite, leads a revolt against the leadership of Moshe and questions Aharon's legitimacy as the High Priest. Korach, in his quest for honor and prestige, appeals to the nation with a populist sentiment - "Are we not all holy? Is it necessary for such a distinguished People to be under the dominion of Moshe?" His arguments win over two-hundred and fifty prestigious leaders and sow doubt in the heart of the nation. Moshe attempts to reason with the insurgents, but his efforts are met with failure. Compelled to prove that his leadership and teachings emanated from G-d Himself, and that the appointment of his brother Aharon was Divine, Moshe calls for a conclusive challenge and test. Aharon and each of the other claimants would present an offering of incense. The offering of G-d's chosen would be accepted, but the others would die. Furthermore, Moshe announced that his leadership would be affirmed only if the rebels perished in a miraculous and unprecedented way - the earth itself would open and swallow-up the offenders and all that they own. No sooner had Moshe spoken these words than the ground opened and swallowed Korach and all his confederates. The nation, terrified at the frightful noise of the earth opening, fled in panic.

Interestingly, the Torah deviates from a more expected construct in narrating the nation's panic. Instead of employing the prefix *mem* - which would mean they fled *from* the sound, a *lamed* prefix is used. This seems to imply that they fled *to* the sound!

In explanation, Rabbi Chaim Zaitchik offers the following: The sound alluded to in the verse is the internal voice of rectitude and virtue imbedded within us. Though seduced and confounded by the wiles of Korach, the wondrous phenomenon unfolding before them vanquished the din of confusion. Now, they were able to tune in to their own inner goodness which called out to them, urging them to flee the false and precarious road stretching before them.

Today, we cannot expect the miraculous directional signals of yore. Fortunately, we still have an inner compass of morality to help guide us to a just and righteous path. Let's just be certain to tune in.

Have a wonderful Shabbos!

Rabbi Menachem Winter

TABLE TALK

POINT TO PONDER

And Korach took... (16:1)

When Hashem told Bnei Yisrael upon leaving Mitzrayim to take expensive utensils from the Egyptians, Hashem's instructions were only for those who had been enslaved to them. Since Korach was from Shevet Levi and was not a slave, he was unable to partake in the riches of the Egyptians (Pirkei D'Rebbe Elazar 49).

Hashem told Moshe, since you did not take from the spoils of Mitzrayim, as you were busy retrieving the bones of Yosef, I will give you the shavings of the Luchos (Shemos Rabba 46:2).

Moshe was also from Shevet Levi. Why was it considered meritorious that he did not partake in collecting the spoils? He was not allowed to since he had not been enslaved in Mitzrayim!

PARSHA RIDDLE

What is the connection between Akeidas Yitzchak and the swallowing of Korach?

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: Shlomo had the menorah engraved on the back of his throne.

HATORAH V'HAMITZVAH HALACHA INSIGHTS FROM THE PARSHA

Parshas Korach relates the tale of its eponymous antagonist's egalitarian rebellion against the authority of Moshe Rabbeinu: "all the congregation are holy, every one of them, and Hashem is among them: why do you exalt yourselves over the congregation of Hashem?" (Bamidbar 16:3) While Korach was obviously wrong, as everything Moshe had done was at the Divine behest - "Hashem sent me to do all these works; for I have not done them of my own mind" (*ibid.* 16:28) - the underlying Jacksonian democratic impulse is by no means foreign to Judaism. As the Maharam of Rothenburg puts it: "If there is a quarrel amid your community, and they cannot reach consensus ... there shall be a meeting of all householders who pay tax ... and they shall follow the majority" (*Hagahos Maimoniyos Tefilah* Ch. 11 os 2).

The Maharam, as well as other authorities, give more weight to the preferences of the wealthy, since they pay most of the taxes (*Shut. Ha'Rosh* 7:3; *Rema choshen mishpat* 163:3; and cf. *Sema s.k.* 13; *Mishneh Le'Melech gezeilah ve'aveidah* 12:11); this is notably different from our modern version of democracy that insists, at least as an ideal, on "one man one vote." Furthermore, R. Shmuel de Medina insists that the opinions of the wealthy are inherently of greater importance than those of the masses "for five or ten important men are equivalent to a thousand [ordinary ones], whether [they are important] due to wisdom or due to wealth, for wealth is close to the virtue of wisdom ..." (*Shut. Maharashdam orach chaim siman* 37).

PRESENTED BY RABBI YITZHAK GROSSMAN, ROSH CHABURA

KIDS KORNER

WHO AM I?

#1 WHO AM I?

1. I am not known by my name.
2. My sefer is not Sefer Breishis.
3. I make some wrap twice.
4. I have a special time.
5. My family is well known by their acronyms.

#2 WHO AM I?

1. One of ten
2. I am wages.
3. I cause wealth.
4. Take from me Teruma.

Please see next week's issue for the answers.

Last Issue's Answers:

#1 Rebbi Chanina be Tradyon * (I was one of the Ten; my daughter gave the shiur for her husband; you are a jester if you do not learn with your friend; I was buried in the city of Rebbi Yehuda HaNasi; I was a well-known Gabai Tzedaka.)

#2 Tzitzis (I am said daily; strings attached; I remind you about the Throne; I equal 613.)

* *Rebbi Chanina ben Tradyon* was one of the 10 harugei malchus (martyrs). His daughter was Berurya, the wife of Rebbi Meir. He taught in Pirkei Avos (3:2) that two people who are together and do not learn, it is a meeting of jesters. He was buried in Tzipori, and was a famous trusted gabbai tzedaka (*Bava Basra* 10b)

All children 13 and under who answer a "Who Am I?" correctly will be entered into a raffle to

Win a pair of Spy Specs Video Glasses!



The next raffle will be August 4th.

Visit 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

Youth Summer Kollel!

Join the Kollel for learning, refreshments, and raffles!

5th & 6th Grade boys: 7:30 - 8:15 pm

7th - 9th Grade boys: 8:15 - 9:00 pm,

Monday - Thursday, from June 29th through July 16th, at the Kollel.

See the flyer at gwckollel.org for the full schedule!