



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.*

In this week's Torah portion of Va'eschanan, chapter 6 verses 10-12 read: "It shall be that when Hashem, your G-d, brings you to the Land that Hashem swore to your forefathers, to Abraham, to Isaac, and to Jacob, to give you - great and good cities that you did not build, houses filled with every good thing that you did not fill, chiseled cisterns that you did not chisel, orchards and olive trees that you did not plant - and you shall eat and be satisfied - beware for yourself lest you forget Hashem Who took you out of the land of Egypt..." The Torah forewarns us that with all of our successes and achievements, we should not forget that it is G-d who provides us with the strength and capacity to accomplish all. How truly vulnerable we are! In moments of need we know to Whom to turn in prayer and supplication. However, in success, we fail to recognize and attribute the true source of all our achievements.

What indeed motivates us to be so heady and myopic? The great sage of the previous generation, the Chazon Ish, conveyed to us a profound concept about our service to G-d. There is to be found a special "yetzer hora" - evil inclination - a force, if you will, that accompanies all of one's successes. The nature and personality of this force is specifically to undermine and obscure the clarity and gratitude to the One Above for all His kindness and bounty. Deceived and blinded as we are, we then attribute our success and good fortune to our own strength and ingenuity. Such as it is, the Torah advises us to remember, rise above, and meet the challenge. All our good fortune and all our blessings are given and provided to us by the grace of G-d alone.

*Have a wonderful Shabbos!*

*Rabbi Menachem Winter*

## TABLE TALK

### POINTS TO PONDER

#### **Shema Yisroel Hashem Elokeinu, Hashem Echad (6:4).**

When they took Rebbi Akiva out to be killed it was time to say Shema. They were combing Rebbi Akiva with iron combs, and Rebbi Akiva was accepting the Yoke of Hashem's reign. His students asked him, "Rebbi, to this extent?" and Rebbi Akiva responded, "All my life I was anxiously awaiting the time when I could fulfill this posuk, 'with all your soul' to give up my life for Hashem. Now that I have the opportunity, should I not be happy? Rebbi Akiva extended his saying of the word "echod" and died while saying that word (Berochos 61b).

It seemed that Rebbi Akiva was reciting the words, "with all your soul" as he said "this posuk" and not "the posuk." This posuk is said after the word "echad." How could Rebbi Akiva have died while saying the word "echad" if he continued on to the words "with all your soul?"

### PARSHA RIDDLE

#### **How was Moshe compared to one who loves money?**

Please see next week's issue for the answer.

#### **Last week's riddle:**

When Mashiach comes, which three Yomim Tovim will we celebrate?

**Answer:** 1 - Chanuka  
2 - Purim  
3 - Tisha B'Av / 17<sup>th</sup> of Tammuz

## HATORAH V'HAMITZVAH

### HALACHA INSIGHTS FROM THE PARSHA

Parshas Va'Eschanan contains Moshe's recapitulation of the giving of the "Ten Commandments," one of which is the prohibition against taking Hashem's name in vain (*Devarim* 5:11), which our tradition understands to refer to a false or pointless oath (see Rashi to *Shemos* 20:7). There is also, however, a venerable Jewish attitude that "even a true oath is a sin," and people therefore "avoid swearing even a true oath, and settle in any way possible." The *Chasam Sofer* endorses this perspective, concluding that "the custom of Israel is Torah, and we ought not to doubt it" (*Shut. Chasam Sofer choshen mishpat* #90).

R. Eliyahu Kalatzkin accepts this basic idea, but adds the caveat that one may not engage in such piousness at another's expense. E.g., an insolvent debtor whose only opportunity to obtain the funds necessary to satisfy his creditors involves taking a (true) oath must not decline to do so, as he would thus fall under the category of "The wicked borroweth, and payeth not again" (*Tehillim* 37:21, *Shut. Imrei Shefer siman* 49).

R. Yosef Shaul Nathanson, on the other hand, maintains that in the case of a partnership, a partner must indemnify his fellow partner who declines to swear and thereby causes a loss to the partnership, for since "every man who fears and trembles at the word of Hashem does not wish to swear even truthfully, on this assumption did they enter into the partnership, that if one can settle in lieu of the oath, his fellow, too, shall enter into the injury" (*Shut. Sho'el U'Meishiv* 4:2:88). A careful reading of R. Nathanson's argument, however, may suggest that it is limited to the case of partnership, but he might agree with R. Kalatzkin in the case of the insolvent debtor.

PRESENTED BY  
**RABBI YITZHAK GROSSMAN, ROSH CHABURAH**

## KIDS KORNER

### WHO AM I?

#### **#1 WHO AM I?**

1. I am the man of an adage or the man of a city.
2. My student was one of the "Ten".
3. It's all good.
4. My dirt was dangerous.
5. My house stood so as not to crush me.

#### **#2 WHO AM I?**

1. I am like Yom Kippur.
2. Wear white.
3. Dancing in the field.
4. I am the opposite of a week before.

#### **Last Issue's Answers:**

**#1 The Alter of Kelm** \* (I was called shine; my Rebbe was the Light of Israel; I found a "Bais HaTalmud"; I taught Wisdom and Ethics; I focused on the greatness of man.)

**#2 Tisha B'Av** (I am nine of ten; I have nothing to do with a father; one day I will be happy; I was caused by crying.)

\* *The Alter of Kelm's name was Rav Simcha Zissel Ziv (shine). His Rebbe was Rav Yisroel Salanter, author of Ohr Yisroel. He taught his students of the greatness that every person possesses. His Yeshiva was "Bais HaTalmud" of Kelm, and he authored "Chochma Umussar."*

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 4<sup>th</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.

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RESUMES AUGUST 16<sup>TH</sup>