



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.*

In chapter 29, verse 28 of this week's Torah portion, Nitzavim, the text reads: "The hidden are for our G-d but the revealed are for us and our children forever."

The Belzer Rebbe explains that the content of the above verse refers to the performance of mitzvot and good deeds. There are two kinds of behavior: one, when we act righteously but keep our conduct hidden (only known unto G-d); the second, where our performance of good deeds and mitzvot are revealed unto others. The Torah is teaching us that if we act righteously but keep our behavior hidden, it remains only the province of G-d. However, if we reveal our observance of mitzvot and good deeds, it becomes the province of our children and family as well.

If we are to inspire our children and grandchildren we must set the example and incorporate them in our performance of good deeds. "Charity begins at home" now has a new meaning. When we give charity, let our children know and observe. Charitable giving is far more than the means we have; it is the result of the culture we imbue in our family. The same is true with acts of kindness, synagogue attendance, and all other Jewish and religious behavior.

As we prepare for the New Year, let us resolve to strengthen our personal performance of mitzvot and good deeds, with an eye not only for our own growth, but to serve as a legacy for our children forever.

I want to wish all our readers of the Torah Minute a year of life, good health, prosperity and peace in our Hoy Land of Israel. Amen!!

Have a wonderful Shabbos!

Rabbi Menachem Winter

TABLE TALK

POINTS TO PONDER

You are standing today, all of you... all the men of Yisrael (29:9).

(Hashem) reign over the whole world, all of it... (Rosh Hashana Davening)

Why do we use a double terminology of “all”? If it says “all of you” why does the posuk repeat, “all the men of Yisrael”? If we are asking that Hashem reign over the whole world, why do we add “all of it”?

PARSHA RIDDLE

On what date was the world created?

Please see next week’s issue for the answer.

Last week’s riddle:

What connection is there between the Seder on Pesach and the parsha this week?

Answer: The pesukim in the beginning of the parsha are the pesukim discussed in Maggid at the Seder.

HATORAH V’HAMITZVAH

HALACHA INSIGHTS FROM THE PARSHA

Parshas Nitzavim contains the very last of the 613 mitzvos, the imperative for every Jew to write a *sefer Torah* (Devarim 31:19, as explained by the Oral Torah). This precept is ideally fulfilled by personally writing a *sefer Torah*; if one is unable to do so, he should hire someone to do it for him (*Yad Ha’Chazakah hilchos Tefilin, Mezuzah ve’Sefer Torah 7:1 and Sefer Ha’Chinuch #613*).

In contemporary times, this commandment obligates us to write (or, presumably, publish by any means available) works of Torah in general, such as *chumashim, mishnayos, gemaros* and their commentaries, (*Rosh* beginning of *hilchos Sefer Torah*). There is an opinion that the injunction to write these *sefarim* supplants the original imperative to write actual *sifrei Torah* (*Prishah, Shach yoreh de’ah siman 270*), but others maintain that the original commandment still remains in force (*Beis Yosef, Taz ibid.*).

This latter view notwithstanding, most people never write or even commission the writing of a *sefer Torah*. One possible justification of this neglect is found in a provocative suggestion of the *Sha’agas Aryeh* (#36) that it is virtually impossible for us to properly fulfill this *mitzvah*. Despite the remarkable reliability and consistency of our traditions regarding the orthography of the Biblical text, the Talmud relates that already in its era, “we [were no longer] expert in plene and deficient spellings,” and our *mitzvah* can only be fulfilled with a technically perfect *sefer Torah*. The *Minchas Chinuch* counters this pessimistic idea by proposing a distinction between spelling errors that alter the basic meaning of the text, and those that do not. He concedes that the former would impede the fulfillment of the *mitzvah*, but asserts that we have absolute confidence in the reliability of our tradition in this regard. The Talmud is only admitting the possibility of errors that do not affect the text’s basic meaning, which would not prevent us from fulfilling the *mitzvah*.

PRESENTED BY
RABBI YITZHAK GROSSMAN, ROSH CHABURAH

KIDS KORNER

WHO AM I?

#1 WHO AM I?

1. Yehoshua came from me.
2. I was the merit for Esther.
3. I was the most beautiful.
4. I was the first of four.
5. I was to be listened to.

#2 WHO AM I?

1. I will be for Moshiach.
2. I am for inauguration.
3. I am for repentance.
4. I cause Hashem to move.

Last Issue’s Answers:

#1 Rav Yosef Shlomo Kahanamen* (My Rebbi’s *yahrzeit* is also this week; I learned with the water man; I transplanted the Yeshiva to Bnei Brak; I built and fundraised for many institutions; named for King in Mitzrayim and Yerushalayim; I am known by the Yeshiva’s hometown.)

#2 The Tochecha/Rebuke (I am before Shavuos; I am before Rosh Hashana; quiet; punishment)

*Rav Yosef Shlomo Kahanamen’s *yahrzeit* was 20 Elul. His Rebbi was the Chofetz Chaim whose *yahrzeit* was on 24 Elul. While in Radin he learned with Rav Elchonon Wasserman. He transplanted the Ponovizh yeshiva to Bnei Brak, among many other institutions. He was known as the Ponovizher Rav.

All children 13 and under who answer a “Who Am I?” correctly will be entered into a raffle to **Win a Shaved Ice Machine!**



The next raffle is October 13th.

Visit 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 Greater Washington Community Kollel wishes all of its friends, supporters, participants, and the entire community, a sweet New Year.

May you and your family be blessed with health, happiness, and all the wishes of your heart.