



The Greater Washington Community Kollel

SHABBOS DELIGHTS

TORAH MINUTE

IN MEMORY OF RABBI KALMAN WINTER ZT"l

Kayin and Hevel (Cain and Abel), born to Adam and Chava (Eve), are inspired to bring an offering to G-d. Kayin, a farmer, brings his sacrifice from the earth's bounty, identified in the Medrash as flax seed. Hevel, a shepherd, chooses his offering from his flock. G-d accepts the offering of Hevel, while rejecting that of Kayin. The commentators, based upon the Torah's description of the different offerings, explain that Hevel selected from the finest of his flock for his offering, while Kayin proffered his inferior produce.

Smitten with jealousy and ignoring G-d's entreaties for repentance, Kayin rises up and kills Hevel. When G-d questions Kayin as to the whereabouts of his brother, he insolently responds, "Am I my brother's keeper?" God chastises Kayin for the murder of Hevel, saying that the "voice of your brother's bloods cries out to Me from the ground!" Commenting on the plural usage of blood in the verse, Rashi explains that it refers not only to the blood of Hevel, but to the blood of all his potential descendants.

This, says Rabbi Eliyahu Dessler, should serve as a perspective for all our actions. We cannot evaluate what we do in an isolated way. All of our actions have consequences far beyond what we immediately perceive, and all those repercussions are attributed to us.

The story is told of Rabbi Shlomo Heiman, Rosh HaYeshiva (Dean) in Torah V'Daas. One wintry New York day, very heavy snow made travel all but impossible. Only a few students were able to gather for Rabbi Heiman's daily lecture. Rabbi Heiman began to expound passionately on the Talmud, his voice rising to a thunderous crescendo. One of the students expressed his amazement and wonder at the intensity and energy that his Rebbe mustered for just the few boys sitting in front of him. Turning to the boy, Rabbi Heiman said, "Do you think I only see the four of you sitting in front of me?! I see your children and grandchildren, your students and the students of your students."

This is the true power of our actions. A kind word, meant to give courage and hope. A small loan to put someone back on their feet. A Torah thought shared, to inspire and uplift. Who can accurately determine the impact of our deeds? Who can measure the reality of what we accomplish? As we reflect on the extraordinary, far-reaching effects and potential of all we do, may we be fortified and invigorated to carry on in devotion to man and G-d.

Have a wonderful Shabbos!

Rabbi Menachem Winter

TABLE TALK

POINTS TO PONDER

“Hashem said, ‘Let there be a firmament between the waters, and let it separate between water and water.’ Hashem created the firmament and separated between the waters which were beneath the firmament and the waters which were above the firmament; and so it was” (1:6-7).

By the creation of the firmament, the Torah wrote a verse relating Hashem’s command to create it and another verse concerning its creation. This is unlike all the other creations where Hashem stated the command to create an item and it was automatically created. For example, during the creation of light on the first day, we find that Hashem commanded that there should be light and light appeared. Why by the creation of the firmament did Hashem actually create the firmament after He gave the command for the firmament to be created?

PARSHA RIDDLE

Which creation was given the opportunity to live the longest?

Please see next week’s issue for the answer.

Last week’s riddle:

Which building is referred to as a sukkah?

Answer: Bais Hamikdash – Sukkas Dovid

HATORAH V’HAMITZVAH

HALACHA INSIGHTS FROM THE PARSHA

Did *Adam Ha'Rishon* (the First Man), wear a *yarmulka*? The colorful and original great Moroccan rabbi R. Yosef Messas notes that in *parshas Bereshis*, Hashem makes Adam and his wife Chava “coats of skins” - but not hats, an omission he adduces in support of his contention that covering one’s head is not generally strictly required by *halachah* (*Shut. Mayim Chaim* 1:23).

This basic question of whether (male) head covering is a strict requirement or merely pious conduct has been the subject of contention for half a millennium (see, e.g., *Bi’ur Ha’Gra* to 8:2, *Mishneh Berurah* *ibid.* s.k. 11). While the *Turei Zahav* (beginning of *siman* 61, and cf. *Shut. Nachalas Binyamin* #30) maintains that even insofar as *halachah* might not inherently demand head covering, in contemporary times when baring one’s head is a “law” of the Gentiles, doing so falls under the prohibition against “walk[ing] in their ordinances,” R. Messas strongly rejects this argument, too.

Another lenient position on head covering is that of R. David Zvi Hoffmann. He begins by acknowledging that the “[G-d] fearing” Hungarian rabbis are very strict about bareheadedness, but subsequently notes that in the school established by R. Samson Raphael Hirsch in Frankfurt am Main (in which R. Hoffmann had taught), the students went bareheaded during general studies, and covered their heads only while studying Torah. He further adds that upon his initial audience with R. Hirsch with hat on head, R. Hirsch pointed out to him that since the local custom was to doff one’s hat in the presence of a dignitary, a teacher (particularly a non-Jewish one) might perceive R. Hoffmann’s failure to do so as a slight against the school’s Director (i.e., R. Hirsch - *Shut. Melamed Le’Ho’il* 2:56).

PRESENTED BY

RABBI YITZHAK GROSSMAN, ROSH CHABURAH

KIDS KORNER

WHO AM I?

#1 WHO AM I?

1. I ruled with another.
2. Some confuse me with a boy.
3. I referred to Yaakov.
4. When I leave Shabbos comes.

#2 WHO AM I?

1. I was created from surgery.
2. My title defines my source.
3. My name defines my purpose.
4. I caused pain.

Last Issue’s Answers:

#1 A Sukkah (I am three, maybe four; I am a cloudy representation; 20 is not for me; I am a home away from home.)

#2 Yom Kippur (I am a day of happiness; I am like the lots; I am a day of holiness; I clean you.)

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.

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.*

KOLLEL BULLETIN BOARD

The Kollel’s Fall Semester begins this Sunday!

Join the Kollel as we begin our new semester.

**Come try out one of our variety of classes, find a chavrusa,
or join one of our learning programs!**