



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. Penned in 2011 by our founder, Rabbi Kalman Winter zt"l, the words are incredibly timely today.

The Torah portion of Tetzaveh details the vestments worn by the Priests in the Mishkan (Tabernacle). The Mishkan, which would in the future make its permanent home as the Temple on Mount Moriah, was the very center of the world. Directly above, in the heavens, sat the throne of the Almighty. Our physical world below is a reflection of the spirituality that pervades the world above.

The Talmud in Avodah Zarah (2b) states: "All world events that transpire are intended ultimately to provide the Jewish people with the opportunity to learn and study Torah." The entire world is imbued with spirituality in purpose and substance, veiled in layers of materialism and physicality. To see beyond the curtain, and thus perceive and comprehend the true meaning of the world, is the very purpose of life.

As we regard with fascination and trepidation the events unfolding in the Middle East (and around the entire globe), we are naturally caught up in the political drama of the moment. As G-d's Chosen People, however, we must understand these events in greater depth, for there await repercussions far beyond the geopolitical and military landscape.

Forces that are primarily spiritual in nature guide the world in specific directions in order to facilitate the spiritual needs and goals of the Jewish People. Just as our Temple on Mount Moriah stood at the epicenter of the world, so too does the destiny of the Jewish people. All the throughways and byways of world history are intricately interwoven and directed, converging for the explicit purpose of advancing the spiritual needs of the Jewish Nation. Our view from below is in individual frames; from above, however, it is a complete panorama of world history and events, all designed and intended for Our People.

Have a wonderful Shabbos,

Rabbi Menachem Winter

TABLE TALK

POINTS TO PONDER

You shall make vestments of sanctity for Aaron your brother, for glory and splendor (28:2).

Kohanim are different, since they are allowed to wear shatnez in the bigdei kehuna / the clothes of the kohanim (Eiruchin 3b).

A garment that is worn for honor is not subject to the rules of shatnez (Bais Yosef, Orach Chaim 10).

Since the clothes that the kohanim wore were for honor, as the posuk says, why does the Gemara consider it a special leniency for the kohanim that they could wear shatnez? Those garments would never be subject to the rules of shatnez.

PARSHA RIDDLE

Which Kohen, besides Aaron and his sons, needed to be anointed as a Kohen?

Please see next week's issue for the answer.

Last week's riddle:

How many crowns were there in the Mishkan? Where?

Answer: 3 - Aron, Golden Mizbeyach, and the Shulchan

HATORAH V'HAMITZVAH

HALACHA INSIGHTS FROM THE PARSHA

The first half of *Parshas Tetzaveh* contains Hashem's detailed set of instructions for the fashioning of the priestly vestments worn by the High Priest (*kohen gadol*) and the ordinary priests (*kohanim hedyotim*). For most of the past two millennia, these laws have been moot, due to the abolition of the sacrificial order, but in the 19th century, in the course of the controversy over R. Tzvi Hirsch Kalischer's ambitious proposal to reinstitute the sacrificial order, the Torah's descriptions and laws of the priestly vestments began once again to be considered in a practical light.

The sacrificial service requires *kohanim*, who must wear their priestly vestments. The general assumption, however, is that *kohanim hedyotim* are sufficient, which greatly simplifies the fashioning of the vestments, as their vestments are much simpler than those of the *kohen gadol*. Nevertheless, one serious objection raised by R. Akiva Eiger concerns the girdle (*avneit*). While the *kohen gadol's avneit* includes various forms of dyed wool, including *techeiles* (generally translated as blue wool) and *argaman* (generally translated as purple wool), the *kohen hedyot's* vestments generally consist solely of simple linen. There is, however, a Talmudic dispute regarding the *kohen hedyot's avneit*; one opinion is that it, too, consists solely of linen, while another view is that it resembled the *kohen gadol's avneit*, and contains *techeiles* and *argaman*. In light of this latter view, R. Akiva Eiger argued that the construction of the *avneit* is a practical impossibility, since the dye used to produce *techeiles* is traditionally derived from a marine creature known as the *chilazon*, whose identity was unknown at the time. Similarly, we do not know how *argaman* is produced.

R. Kalischer countered by arguing for the opinion that the *kohen hedyot's avneit* does not contain *techeiles* (or *argaman*). He further argued that even if it should ideally contain *techeiles*, the absence of *techeiles* does not render it completely invalid (just as white *tzitzis* are still worn even in the absence of *techeiles*). Additionally, he suggested that *techeiles* does not necessarily need to be derived from the *chilazon*, but may be derived from other sources as well (*Derishas Tzion, Ma'amar Kadishin*).

PRESENTED BY

RABBI YITZHAK GROSSMAN, ROSH CHABURAH

KIDS KORNER

WHO AM I?

#1 WHO AM I?

1. Shatnez
2. Four more than the "regulars"
3. Uniform
4. We are called "gold."

#2 WHO AM I?

1. I created lights.
2. I gave answers.
3. I was in the fold.
4. I was only for the first Beis HaMikdash.

Last Week's Answers:

#1 Keruvim (Childlike; we have something in common with angels; friendship was revealed by us; we put a lid on it.)

#2 Aron (I was all halves; I was 3 parts; I carried my carriers; testimony.)

Stay tuned for details about the next raffle!

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

Win a super prize

Congratulations to Yitzi Arzouan for winning a Casio Mini Keyboard in the last raffle!

Visit gwckollel.org to submit your answers.

Answer as many as you can - each correct answer will entitle you to another raffle ticket and increase your chances of winning.

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