



Greater Washington Community Kollel

SHABBOS DELIGHTS

TORAH MINUTE

IN MEMORY OF RABBI KALMAN WINTER ZT" L

The Secret to Redemption

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In the sixth chapter of *Pirkei Avos*, the Mishna gives a detailed list of 48 ingredients with which to acquire Torah knowledge. The last of these 48 fundamental attributes is "*Ha'omer davar bshem amro*," quoting a Torah scholar by name when referencing their teachings. The Mishna concludes that not only is it a key to Torah knowledge but it also hastens the redemption, as the verse states in the Book of Esther, "*Vatomer Esther Bshem Mordechai*." This is a reference to Esther disclosing Mordechai's discovery of the plot to kill King Achashverosh, an event that would ultimately lead to the salvation of the Jewish people. What is it about this attribute that is so powerful and why is it one of the keys to redemption?

The Maharal explains that Esther displayed great humility through her actions. At a time where she could have advanced her own position and good standing with Achashverosh, she acted with integrity and attributed the information to its appropriate source. This quality demonstrated a recognition that it was not her own wisdom or abilities that guided her fate but rather the hand of Hashem and His will. It is this quality of humility that prepares one to acquire Torah and is the key to the successful assimilation of Torah values. The Sages further explain that the Torah was given to the Jewish people specifically in the desert to teach us the lesson of humility and its essential role in the preservation of Torah.

The Maharal goes on to explain that in the current state of exile we are displaced and distanced from our true home in Israel. The process of redemption returns us back to our sacred land and brings us back to our essence. This is the underlying message that one demonstrates when quoting an original source. It is a recognition that the Torah wisdom had an initial source and we demonstrate that awareness by quoting its originator. Hashem responds measure for measure, and uses this as a reward to ultimately return His precious nation back to their original source.

During the time of Purim, the Jewish people reaffirmed that which they had accepted at Sinai. The Sages tell us that, out of love for Hashem after witnessing their salvation, they added a new dimension to that original acceptance. The Purim holiday reminds us of the essence of our relationship with Hashem and the hope for our ultimate salvation.

A Happy Purim and a Good Shabbos!

TABLE TALK

POINT TO PONDER

You shall make the Choshen of Judgment the work of an artist... (28:15)

It would tell the judgement to the judges if they were unsure how to judge (Targum Yonason Ben Uziel).

The Gemara (Bava Basra 59b) teaches that Hashem gave the Torah to this world and the Heavens cannot have a say with regard to the Torah here. If so, how was the Urim V'tumim, whose words came from Heaven, able to tell the judges what the law should be in this world?

PARSHA RIDDLE

How can an ordinary Jew become as holy as a member of Shevet Levi?

Please see next week's issue for the answer.

Last week's riddle:

Who was disappointed when the Mishkan was completed?

Answer: The first-born men, who did the service before the Mishkan was completed, lost this after the Mishkan was completed and therefore, were disappointed (Bamidbar Rabba 12:7).

HATORAH V'HAMITZVAH

HALACHA INSIGHTS FROM THE PARSHA

Parashas Tetzaveh (28:30) contains the mysterious instruction: "And thou shalt put in the breastplate of judgment the Urim and the Tummim." There are but a handful of other references to the Urim and Tummim throughout the Bible, and nowhere are we told what they are, and even the corpora of Midrash and Talmudic literature are mostly silent on this question. It is not until about a millennium ago that we begin to find various expositions within our tradition of the meaning of these most obscure terms:

• Some understand that they were Divine names, written and inserted into the pouch formed by the folding over of the rectangular breastplate (*choshen*) into a square (Rashi, Ramban and cf. Rashbam).

• Others interpret them as a reference to the stones of the *choshen* (or *ephod* - *Otzar Ha'Geonim Berachos responsa* p. 4, "Chazal" according to Ralbag, Rambam according to *Mirkeves Ha'Mishneh* and *Ha'Kesav Ve'Hakabalah*).

• R. Yosef Bechor Shor explains that they were records of the tribal borders [within Eretz Yisrael].

The Talmud (*Yoma* 21b) states that the Urim and Tummim were "missing" during the era of the Second Temple. Tosafos and Rambam (*Beis Ha'Bechirah* 4:1 and *Klei Ha'Mikdash* 10:10) explain that they could not have actually been absent, since the complete set of eight priestly vestments is an absolute requirement for the High Priest, and the Talmud merely means that their prophetic function was not operational. Raavad disagrees, asserting that they were indeed absent, but that there was nevertheless no problem of missing vestments, since "they are not among the enumerated vestments." The commentators explain that Tosafos and Rambam understand that the Urim and Tummim (at least in this context) refer to the *choshen* itself (or its stones, as above), which certainly could not have been absent, as it is one of the eight vestments (or at least an integral component thereof), whereas Raavad understands that they were separate entities placed inside the *choshen*.

PRESENTED BY
RABBI YITZHAK GROSSMAN, ROSH CHABURAH

KIDS KORNER

WHO AM I?

#1 WHO AM I?

1. Shatnez
2. We could be oil replacement.
3. Uniform.
4. We are called "gold".

#2 WHO AM I?

1. I was in last week's.
2. I was crushed.
3. Only use my first.
4. Clearly clean.

Last Week's Answers:

#1 *Keruvim* (We were childish; we put a lid on it; don't turn me; we did not have annexes yet we had...)

#2 *The Menora* (I am seven; the other is eight; one piece; even in winter I had flowers.)

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



Win a
Mini Table Top Pool Table Set



Answer as many as you can. Each correct answer will entitle you to another raffle ticket and increase your chances of winning!
Visit gwckollel.org to submit your answers.

Congratulations to Naphthali Izvi Graham and others for answering last week's questions correctly!

KOLLEL BULLETIN BOARD

This Purim, Join a 2,500 Year Old Yeshiva!

With the terrible decree of Haman hanging over their heads, Mordechai gathered the Jewish children to learn Torah together (Esther Rabbah 9:4). In the merit of their study and prayer, Hashem tore up His decree against the Jewish people.

This Purim, bring your sons to continue the legacy of Yeshivas Mordechai Hatzadik! Participate in a half hour of learning, with prizes, raffles, and refreshments. At the Kollel (10900 Lockwood Dr.), following the 8:00 am minyan (approximately 9:45 am). For men and boys ages 5 and up.