



# Greater Washington Community Kollel SHABBOS DELIGHTS

## TORAH MINUTE

IN MEMORY OF RABBI KALMAN WINTER ZT"L

### *A Mid-Summer "Yom Too"*

Presented by Rabbi Yisrael Glassberg

*Director of Kollel Alumni*

With the memories of Tisha Ba'av fresh in our hearts and minds, we look ahead to the holiday of the fifteenth of Av, referred to as *Tu Ba'av*, as a day of happiness and celebration. Remarkably, the Mishna (Taanis 26b ) equates the joy experienced on *Tu Ba'av* with the joy experienced on the holiest day of the Jewish calendar, *Yom Kippur*.

One of the explanations found in the Talmud (Taanis 30b) for the source of the day's extreme happiness is that Hashem's decree that the generation of the desert should die out had been fulfilled on *Tu Ba'av*. This paved the way for the new generation to enter the Land of Israel. This explanation requires some explanation – it is understandable why there was a sense of relief that the punishment was complete, but why was it the cause for such immense joy?

The commentaries explain that the joy didn't emanate from the fact that they had passed through the decree, but rather from the knowledge that Hashem had not forsaken them. Despite difficult times and trying circumstances, the Almighty had not abandoned them, and the relationship could now be rekindled anew. The awareness of the inseparable bond that they had with Hashem was a source of not only comfort, but great joy as well.

It is precisely this feeling that we strive to replicate a week after commemorating our tragic losses, first and foremost, the loss of our holy *Batei Mikdash*, as well as thousands of years of Jewish suffering. It is the message that we are never forsaken and that our bond with Hashem is unbreakable that we take with us into the weeks ahead, leading into the Days of Awe. One practical way to inculcate this feeling within ourselves is to look for opportunities with which to thank Hashem for the gifts that He is constantly giving us. When we recognize His goodness, we become more aware of His presence in our lives, which resonates within us with a sense of pride and happiness.

*Wishing you a Good Shabbos!*

## TABLE TALK

### POINT TO PONDER

See, I have taught you statutes and ordinances, as Hashem, my G-d, has commanded me, to do in the midst of the land to which you come to take possession of... For it is your wisdom and understanding in the eyes of the people, who shall hear all these statutes and say, "Surely a wise and understanding people is this great nation" (4:5-6).

**This is the statute of the Torah... (Chukas 19:2)**

The nations of the world harass Bnai Yisrael and say, "What is this commandment? What is the reason for it?" (Rashi)

Do the statutes evoke feelings of respect from the Nations towards Bnai Yisrael or harassment?

### PARSHA RIDDLE

#### Why do we cover our eyes while reciting Shema?

Please see next week's issue for the answer.

#### Last week's riddle:

Chazal (Berachos 15b) say that if one reads Shema properly, the fires of Gehenom will be cooled for him. Where is there a reference to this in the words of Shema?

**Answer:** The combination of the first letter of the word shema with the first letter of the word echad produces the word aish - fire. The remaining letters, mem, ayin, ches, and daled, represent Mishael, Azariah, Chananya and Daniel. They were thrown into a fire and were saved miraculously by Hashem (Levush Hilchos Shema).

## HATORAH V'HAMITZVAH

### HALACHA INSIGHTS FROM THE PARSHA

*Parashas Va'Eschanan* (6:18) contains the exhortation: "And thou shalt do that which is right and good in the sight of Hashem." Rashi explains: "This is compromise, beyond the letter of the law (*lifnim mi'shuras ha'din*)." The Ramban elaborates that this is a general exhortation to do what is right and good in the eyes of Hashem, "for it is impossible to mention in the Torah all the conduct of man toward his neighbors and friends". The Torah therefore sets forth many typical prescriptions, such as the prohibitions against tale-bearing, taking revenge, bearing a grudge, and many others, and then instructs us generally to do what is right and good, including compromise and *lifnim mi'shuras ha'din*.

Some authorities rule that acting *lifnim mi'shuras ha'din* is mandatory, and the court will compel one to do so, at least in certain circumstances (*Mordechai Bava Metzia* #258; *Bach CM siman* 12). Others disagree and maintain that such conduct is optional, and the court will not compel it (*Rosh ibid.* 2:7; *Beis Yosef ibid.*; *Shut. Shav Yaakov EH* end of #29; *Shut. Shevus Yaakov* 1:168; *Shut. Kneses Yechezkel OC* end of #7). Other authorities propose a middle ground: the court may engage in verbal suasion, but may not utilize physical force or pronounce an anathema against someone unwilling to act *lifnim mi'shuras ha'din* (*Urim VeTumim ibid. Tumim s.k.* 4; *Chochmas Shlomo ibid.*; *Aruch HaShulchan ibid. seif* 2. Cf. *Shut. Tzemach Tzedek* #89).

Various authorities maintain that even insofar as acting *lifnim mi'shuras ha'din* is generally optional, it is mandatory for righteous men and Torah scholars (*Binah Le'itim Drush* 10 s.v. *ach yesh maalos*; *Shut. Heishiv Moshe* end of #48; *Even Shleimah* 1:14; *Shut. Atzei Broshim* end of #53). An extension of this principle is that a community must act *lifnim mi'shuras ha'din*, since "a community always has the status of a Torah scholar" (*Shut. Mishneh Sachir CM* #4; *Shut. Machazeh Avraham chelek 2 CM* #1. Cf. *Shut. Pe'as Sadecha* #155).

PRESENTED BY  
RABBI YITZHAK GROSSMAN, ROSH CHABURAH

## KIDS KORNER

### WHO AM I?

#### #1 WHO AM I?

1. I'm not the second.
2. I happily end the sad beginning.
3. Making matches.
4. I am fifteen.

#### #2 WHO AM I?

1. I am usually 3 times a day.
2. Sometimes I am four.
3. Once a year I am five.
4. This week I was 515.

#### Last Week's Answers:

**#1 *Half of the Tribe of Menashe*** (I didn't get what I asked for; I am a half; I am on the other side; I am an add on.)

**#2 *Sefer Devarim*** (I am the last; almost one day; words; after last week's.)

**Answer as many as you can.**  
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

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