



# Greater Washington Community Kollel SHABBOS DELIGHTS

## TORAH MINUTE

IN MEMORY OF RABBI KALMAN WINTER ZT" L

### Marked Anticipation

Presented by Rabbi Yisrael Glassberg, Director of Alumni

In this week's Parsha, we read about the receiving of the Torah on Mt. Sinai. In the verses immediately preceding those that record the giving of the Ten Commandments, the Torah records that the Jewish people arrived at the Sinai desert after leaving their encampment in Refidim. The commentaries note, however, that the sequence of the verses is out of order because the Torah first states that the nation came to Sinai, then relates they left Refidim, and then details the giving of the Ten Commandments. Why does the Torah record the nation's approach to Sinai out of order and what significance is there that this variance occurs in the context of the transmission of the Torah?

The Ohr Hachaim Hakadosh explains that all of creation was waiting with great anticipation for the Jewish people to accept the Torah. When Hashem finished creating the physical world, its completeness was not truly realized until the Jewish people accepted the Torah and could utilize the blessings of the world for Divine service. Therefore, their arrival at Sinai was not simply a historical fact that the Torah recounts, but rather a grand announcement that the world was at its zenith, about to reach its full potential. The Torah wanted to emphasize the significance of the moment of their arrival, and as an expression of irrepressible excitement, saves the details of their departure for the later verse.

The Ohr Hachaim's message is a powerful one to keep in mind when we approach Torah study and mitzvah observance. Just as the entire creation was excited for the Jewish people to become partners with Hashem through the Torah, we must reciprocate that same feeling and attitude in our fulfillment of the commandments. It is important to infuse the deeds that we do with the passion and enthusiasm that they deserve. In this way, we will always feel that special relationship with Hashem and make every effort to serve Him with great joy and happiness.

**Wishing you a Good Shabbos!**

## TABLE TALK

### POINT TO PONDER

"...they shall bring every major matter to you, and every minor matter they shall judge..." (18:22)

"The difficult thing they would bring to Moshe and the minor thing they themselves would judge..." (18:26)

Why does the Torah change the terminology from "major" to "difficult"?

### PARSHA RIDDLE

## How many mitzvos are hinted to in the Ten Commandments?

Please see next week's issue for the answer.

Last week's riddle:

What bracha did they make on the mon (manna)?

- Answer: 1) Hamotzi lechem min hashomaim  
 2) No bracha  
 3) Whatever the mon tasted like.

## HATORAH V'HAMITZVAH

### HALACHA INSIGHTS FROM THE PARSHA

The beginning of *Parashas Yisro* contains the narrative of Moshe Rabbeinu's judicial activity and his father-in-law Yisro's suggestion for its improvement. The end of the *parashah*, too, contains a verse that while not referring in its simple meaning to jurisprudence, has been interpreted by *chazal* as an important admonition regarding judicial appointments: "You shall not make with me gods of silver, neither shall you make unto you gods of gold." (20:20) - "Gods of silver and gods of gold are not to be made, but of wood are permitted?! R. Ashi says, [the prohibition refers to] a 'god' who arrives due to silver and a 'god' who arrives due to gold", i.e., a judge who is appointed due to money that he paid the king (or anyone else with the power to appoint judges) for the privilege (*Sanhedrin* 7b, as explained by Rashi and *Bach CM siman* 8). Such a judge is not honored by rising for him, and it is even a *mitzvah* to belittle and denigrate him: "R. Mana would belittle those who were appointed due to money. R. Ami would say apropos of them "Gods of silver ..." (*Yerushalmi* end of *Bikurim* [3:3], *Tur*, *Beis Yosef* and *Shulchan Aruch ibid.*).

The *Bach* rules that this condemnation applies only to the appointment of a judge who is unqualified due to a lack of Torah scholarship, but not to one who is so qualified, even if greater scholars are available and he is appointed due to his wealth. This is only the case, however, insofar as no money is actually paid for the appointment. If the position is paid for (by the judge himself, or by a supporter of his), this is considered a "conspiracy of villains" and it is prohibited to stand up for him, even if no superior candidate is available. *Shut. Chasam Sofer (CM #160)*, however, cites an earlier opinion that paying for an appointment is only considered villainous insofar as a superior candidate is available.

PRESENTED BY  
RABBI YITZHAK GROSSMAN, ROSH CHABURAH

## KIDS KORNER

### WHO AM I?

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

Win a 3-D  
Night Edition  
Puzzle  
of the  
Empire State  
Building

### #1 WHO AM I?

- Seven for me
- Seven for my son-in-law
- Some for my idolatry
- Some for my assistance

### #2 WHO AM I?

- I am not Tylenol.
- Ten were on me.
- My first broke.
- I included the entire Torah.

### Last Week's Answers:

#1 *War - Milchama* (I am the opposite of raw, to avoid me, they detoured; I could be a mitzvah; my root is bread.)

#2 *Az Yashir* (I am said daily; I indicate resurrection; my prophecy was greater than the Prophets; I appear as a wall.)

Visit [gwckollel.org](http://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!

THE NEXT  
RAFFLE WILL BE  
MARCH 6<sup>th</sup>.

## KOLLEL BULLETIN BOARD

### The entire community is invited to join GWCK this week for an Inspirational Shabbos at YISE

- ☆ Ruach-filled davening led by Rabbi Baruch Levine!
- ☆ Oneg Shabbos (8:30pm) with mini learning sessions led by GWCK Kollel Scholars and special kids' programming! Dessert buffet and zemiros with Rabbi Baruch Levine to follow.
- ☆ Classes, lectures, and presentations, by the GWCK throughout Shabbos!
- ☆ Musical Havdallah with Rabbi Baruch Levine immediately following Maariv!