



Greater Washington Community Kollel SHABBOS DELIGHTS

TORAH MINUTE

IN MEMORY OF RABBI KALMAN WINTER ZT" L

The Importance of Preparation

Presented by Rabbi Moshe Sadwin, Kollel Scholar

"And it was on the eighth day..." (9:1)

Our Parsha begins right where the previous Parsha left off. At the end of Parshas Tzav the Torah describes the inaugural ceremony, during which the Mishkan (Tabernacle) and the Kohanim were anointed and the Kohanim began seven days of preparation for service in the Mishkan. Following these seven days, the actual Avodah (service) in the Mishkan was to begin. Our Parsha begins on the eighth day, at the start of the Mishkan service.

It is puzzling, therefore, that the Torah chooses to refer to this day as merely "the eighth day." The seven days of inauguration were the preparation for this very significant day. Each day, they assembled the Mishkan and then took it down, practicing for the day on which they would build it "for real" and put it to actual use. On this eighth day, they erected the Mishkan and Hashem's Holy Presence descended upon it. This was, in fact, the first day that the Mishkan was operational. Why then does the Torah merely designate this day as "day number eight?" Would it not be more appropriate to describe this day as "number one?"

Rav Dovid Feinstein suggests that the Torah has an eye-opening lesson for us: From the Torah's perspective, preparation is just about as important as implementation. The Talmud (Shabbos 63a) teaches that one who attempts to perform a Mitzvah – but is ultimately unsuccessful – receives the reward as if he had actually performed it. The preparation itself imparts true substance to the completion of the Mitzvah. It is for this reason that the Torah calls this auspicious day the eighth day, as it followed the preparatory seven days. The seven days of inauguration should not be discounted as "just preparations" and should not be seen as meaningless. Hashem's presence only descended upon the Mishkan on the eighth day because of the painstaking preparations on the first seven days.

We are currently in the days of Sefirah when we count the days leading up to the holiday of Shavuot. Let us not only count the days, but make the days count – as we prepare ourselves for the holiday on which we received the Torah.

Wishing you a Good Shabbos!

TABLE TALK

POINT TO PONDER

And Aharon was silent (Vayeedom). (10, 3)

Why does the verse use the word *vayeedom* (which has connotations of being like a rock) when describing Aharon's remaining quiet? The word that would normally be used in this context is *vayishtok* or *vayacharish*?

In addition, Aharon received great reward for his silence. What was unique about the silence of Aharon that he deserved so much reward?

PARSHA RIDDLE

How can one miss counting the day of the Omer and still be able to count with a bracha the next night?

Please see next week's issue for the answer.

Last week's riddle:

How many times does Moshe Rabbeinu's name appear in the Haggadah?

Answer: Moshe Rabbeinu's name does not appear in the Haggadah

HATORAH V'HAMITZVAH

HALACHA INSIGHTS FROM THE PARSHA

Parshas Shemini contains several of the Torah's reiterated admonitions against eating vermin.

From roughly the eighteenth century onward, we find a number of *halachic* authorities bemoaning the fact that available foodstuffs were hopelessly infested with vermin, and it was impossible, or at least extremely difficult, to avoid their ingestion. They attempted to justify the practice of consuming such foodstuffs anyway in various ways, generally rooted in the fact that the ratio of vermin to food is small enough that the vermin would normally be considered insignificant (*bateil*). The ordinary rules of *bitul* do not normally apply to complete organisms (*biryah*), but the category of *biryah* may not apply here for a variety of reasons:

- Some authorities rule that even a *biryah* is *bateil* in a ratio of 1/960 or less (*Pleisi siman* 100 os 2, and cf. *Aruch Ha'Shulchan ibid. seifim* 14-15).
- One of the criteria for the application of *biryah* is that the organism must be prohibited from its inception. Vermin that come into existence upon produce do not become prohibited until they leave the produce and "teem upon the earth" (*Vayikra* 11:41-42), and therefore may not have the status of *biryah* (*Pleisi ibid. os* 4, but see *Chavas Daas ibid. os* 5 and *Shut. Tur Ha'Even* #26).
- *Shut. Mishkenos Yaakov* (YD #36) suggests that the category of *biryah* applies only to items that are discrete and distinct, but tiny vermin that are mixed with food and inseparable from it do not have the status of *biryah* (but cf. *Aruch Ha'Shulchan ibid. seif* 16).
- The *Aruch Ha'Shulchan* (*ibid. seifim* 17-180) suggests that the category of *biryah* does not apply to things that are disgusting and revolting.

[Note: some of these justifications are based on opinions that are the subject of dispute; some are conceptual innovations; and at least some are rejected by other authorities. Moreover, some of the authorities that propose these justifications explicitly qualify that they are merely intended to provide some sort of justification of existing practice, but should certainly not be relied upon where it is possible to be stringent and avoid the ingestion of vermin.]

PRESENTED BY
RABBI YITZHAK GROSSMAN, ROSH CHABURAH

KIDS KORNER

WHO AM I?

#1 WHO AM I?

1. In Hebrew, I am winged.
2. In Aramaic, I am four legged.
3. I am five less than Torah.
4. In the Midrash, I am the sound of Moshiach.

#2 WHO AM I?

1. We are locks without keys.
2. You owe us money.
3. Sometimes we are wet behind the ears.
4. We may not be cut.

Last Week's Answers:

#1 Karpas (I can mean "hard work," I am less than an olive, Wash for me, Don't confuse me with your salary)

#2 Marmor (I am white for some, I am green for others, I am dipped, I might make you cry.)

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

WIN a
ETTG Tempo
Remote
Control Speed
Boat



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!

THE NEXT
RAFFLE WILL BE
May 15th.

KOLLEL BULLETIN BOARD

All Kollel Classes Resume Sunday, April 15! - Visit gwckollel.org for more details

Sunday Kollel Brunch and Learn @ YISE - 10:00am
(Rosh Chodesh Schedule)

Pearls of Prayer @ YISE after Mincha/Maariv

CLAS (Community Learning at Shomrai) Mon-Thurs
8:15pm

Parsha Explorations @ KMS - 6:30pm
Spring Semester @ GWCK - Mon-Thurs 8:15pm and
9:00pm

Tehillim: In-Depth (for women) @ GWCK - Tues,
8:15pm