



Greater Washington Community Kollel SHABBOS DELIGHTS

TORAH MINUTE

IN MEMORY OF RABBI KALMAN WINTER ZT" L

The Best Education

Presented by Rabbi Zacharia Schwartz, Kollel Adjunct

*"And Hashem said to Moshe: **say** to the Kohanim the sons of Aharon and you shall **say** to them: None shall defile himself for any [dead] person among his kin." (21:1)*

From the seemingly repetitive wording of this beginning verse of our Parsha (**say...and you shall say**), our sages deduce that we are commanded to teach the mitzvos to our children. Rabbi Moshe Feinstein offers the following insight: When we educate our children about mitzvos and service to Hashem, there are two things that we are obligated to *say* to them. We should instruct them, of course, about the performance of the mitzvos themselves, but we must also convey to them the great value of each mitzvah and that each is a beloved treasure.

Rabbi Feinstein stresses that it is not enough to tell our children how *important* mitzvos are or even how much we may have personally sacrificed in order to perform them. Upon hearing this, a child may say to himself, "My parents have the fortitude to take on such difficult tasks, but I'm not as strong as they are!" Instead, our children need to hear how mitzvos are actually easy, because of how precious they are to us.

While Rabbi Feinstein's lesson is an important educational insight, its application need not be limited to the relationship between parents and children or teachers and students. In our own lives, we may at times find the performance of mitzvos challenging; we may come to view our mitzvah observance as a sacrifice that we are forced to make. At such times, it may be helpful to remember that each mitzvah provides a precious opportunity to acquire eternity and come closer to our Creator. In so doing, we can turn our sense of burden into feelings of inspiration.

May we all merit to recognize mitzvos for the gifts that they truly are and to be able to pass that awareness on to our children and all those around us.

Wishing you a Good Shabbos!

TABLE TALK

POINT TO PONDER

Until the morrow of the seventh week you shall count fifty days... you shall designate one he-goat as a sin offering... (Emor 23, 16 & 19)

(Pesach) One he-goat for a sin offering...(Pinchas 28,22) (Shavuos) One male goat to atone for you. (Pinchas 28,30)

In regard to all the korbanos, the male goat is referred to as a sin offering. However, regarding the male offering brought on Shavuos, the Torah does not call it a sin offering. The reason is since Bnai Yisroel accepted the Torah on Shavuos, Hashem considers it as if Bnai Yisroel do not have any sins, and the korban is only referred to as an atonement. (Yerushalmi Rosh Hashana 4, 8)

Although in Parshas Pinchas the male goat of Shavuos is not called a sin offering, when it is discussed in Parshas Emor, it is referred to as a sin offering. Why?

PARSHA RIDDLE

**Eighteen to get married (Pirkei Avos 5, 21)
Where is there a hint to this in this week's parsha?**

Please see next week's issue for the answer.

Last week's riddle:

On which day of the week are people the weakest?

Answer: Sunday (Taanis 27b)

HATORAH V'HAMITZVAH

HALACHA INSIGHTS FROM THE PARSHA

In parshas Emor, kohanim (priests of Aharonic descent) are prohibited from defiling themselves by contact with the dead. An obvious implication is that kohanim may not participate in burials or visit cemeteries, but there are a number of other activities, common in modern society, that can be problematic for them as well:

- *Entering hospitals (as either patients or staff): Being under the same roof as a dead body is forbidden to kohanim in many circumstances, and hospitals often contain dead bodies. Halachic authorities have advanced a number of justifications for kohanim to enter hospitals, particularly where most of the patients may be presumed to be non-Jewish (Shut. Teshuras Shai I:559; Shut. Chelkas Yaakov YD #215; Shut. Tzitz Eliezer 16:33).*
- *Air travel: Aircraft may fly over graves. The halachah does not generally require a kohein to be concerned about this possibility (Shut. Teshuvos Vehanhagos 3:398), unless he is aware that a specific flight does indeed pass over graves, in which case many halachic authorities rule that the flight should be avoided (Chazon Ish YD 211:9). Additionally, some aircraft, particularly on flights to Israel, may carry human remains in their cargo holds. Many authorities rule that kohanim should avoid such flights (Shut. Teshuvos Vehanhagos 1:678, 2:569, 3:347).*
- *Medical school training: Modern medical school training, at least in the United States, includes the study of gross anatomy, involving the dissection of a human cadaver by the student. Most authorities have forbidden kohanim from participating in such activity, with R. Moshe Feinstein being particularly vociferous in his opposition (Shut. Igros Moshe YD III:155), although a minority view is more lenient (R. Shlomo Goren, Assia 69-70 Nissan 5762, Vol. 18, 1-2, and cf. Dr. Edward R. Burns, The Study of Medicine by Kohanim and R. Avraham Steinberg's Encyclopedia of Jewish Medical Ethics, entry Kohein).*

PRESENTED BY
RABBI YITZHAK GROSSMAN, ROSH CHABURAH

KIDS KORNER

WHO AM I?

#1 WHO AM I?

1. Of me there are three.
2. I am referenced by Bilaam's donkey.
3. I make you walk.
4. I am a good day.

#2 WHO AM I?

1. I am prohibited for the kohen.
2. I force you away from holiness.
3. I am transmitted.
4. I could be a child, father, or grandfather.

Last Week's Answers:

#1 The goats on Yom Kippur (We are double, Totally similar, Our ends are different, One would make the red white.)

#2 Yom Kippur (I am like Purim, I am fast, I am on the tenth, Clean slate.)



Congratulations to TSGW 4th Grade Boys and others on answering last week's questions correctly!

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.**

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