



The Greater Washington Community Kollel

SHABBOS DELIGHTS

TORAH MINUTE

IN MEMORY OF RABBI KALMAN WINTER ZT"l

No Prayer is Ever Unanswered

Presented by Rabbi Moshe Sadwin, Kollel Scholar

"I beseeched Hashem... let me now cross and see the good land" (3:23,25)

"You shall not cross over this Jordan river" (3:27)

After Moshe was informed that he would not be permitted to enter the land of Israel, he began to implore Hashem to reconsider and allow him entry into the land. Our sages teach us that he prayed a total of five hundred and fifteen prayers (the numerical value of va'eschanan) for this opportunity. Ultimately, however, he was unsuccessful and was told "You shall not cross over this Jordan river."

While it appears that all of Moshe's prayers were wasted energy; he was unsuccessful in his entreaties and did not obtain what he had prayed for, the truth is that there is no such thing as an unanswered prayer. Even if a prayer does not procure the desired request, it is stored away to be recalled in other situations. Although Moshe's prayers did not allow him to enter the land of Israel, they still had a profound effect on the Jewish people.

The Aish Dos explains that Moshe's five hundred and fifteen prayers were rerouted to protect the Jewish people until the end of days. He makes an amazing calculation. The years between Moshe's death and the end of days, according to the Midrash Osiyos D'Rabi Akiva, are 3,605 years. If we calculate one prayer per seven year period (the shemitta cycle), that yields five hundred and fifteen; each prayer giving protection for a seven year interval. Although they didn't accomplish Moshe's goal of being allowed entry into the land of Israel, his prayers are still effective today, and will continue to protect us until the end of time.

Parshas Va'eschanan always occurs right after Tisha B'av, the day of mourning for the destruction of the Temple and our present exile. Our nation has shed many tears and has prayed copiously for the rebuilding of the Temple and our return to the Promised Land. The message of our Parsha is that all those prayers and tears are being collected – stored away for when Hashem decides it's the right time to bring the ultimate redemption. May we witness it speedily in our days.

Wishing you a Good Shabbos!

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TABLE TALK

Point to Ponder

And I prayed to Hashem (3:23).

Rav Simlai expounded: Why did Moshe desire to enter Eretz Yisrael? Did he need to eat its fruit? Did he need to be satiated from its food? Rather Moshe wanted to fulfill the many mitzvos that can only be fulfilled in Eretz Yisrael (Sotah 14a).

Rav Simlai should have said "Did he want to eat its fruit? Did he want to be satiated?..." Why did he use the word need?

Parsha Riddle

What day of the year is Tu B'Av compared to?

Please see next week's issue for the answer.

Last week's riddle:

Where is there a source in this week's parsha that one should not eat food that was cooked by a non-Jew?

Answer: Bnai Yisroel offered to buy bread and water from Moav, they did not offer to buy cooked food from them, indicating the practice to not to eat food cooked by a non-Jew. (Tosafos Bava kama 15a)

HATORAH V'HAMITZVAH

HALACHA INSIGHTS FROM THE PARSHA

In parashas Vaeschanan, Hashem commands (5:13-14): "Six days shall you labor and accomplish all your work; but the seventh day is Sabbath to Hashem, your G-d; you shall not do any work ..." Various midrashim understand the opening phrase [or at least the parallel language in parashas Yisro] as a commandment to work: "Great is work, for just as Israel is commanded regarding the Sabbath [i.e., to refrain from work on that day], so, too, is it commanded regarding work [i.e., to work the rest of the week]" (Avos De'Rabbi Nosson (variation b) ch. 21, and cf. Torah Sheleimah, Vol. 16, Miluim #14)

R. Menachem Kasher suggests that this is no mere aggadic idea, but one with halachic ramifications. It is prohibited (in certain circumstances) to embark on a sea voyage within three days of the Sabbath (since this may lead to certain types of infringements of the laws of the Sabbath), unless the trip is for the purpose of a mitzvah. Rabbeinu Tam rules that business travel is included in the category of mitzvah (see Tur and Beis Yosef OC end of siman 248), and R. Kasher suggests that this is rooted in the aforementioned midrashic understanding that work is a mitzvah.

The Beis Yosef, however, rejects Rabbeinu Tam's view on various grounds, including a *reductio ad absurdum* argument: some authorities explain that the dispensation to embark on a voyage for a mitzvah purpose despite the potential infringement of the laws of the Sabbath is based on the principle that "one who is involved in a mitzvah is exempt from another mitzvah" [*ha'oseik be'mitzvah patur min ha'mitzvah*]. The Beis Yosef argues that if earning a livelihood is considered a mitzvah in our context and we apply the principle of *oseik be'mitzvah* to such activity, it follows that the entire world are generally exempt from mitzvos (insofar as they are engaged in earning their livelihoods)!

R. Kasher defends Rabbeinu Tam with the suggestion that in general, one can pause his work for the performance of mitzvos and subsequently return to work, and therefore the exemption of *oseik be'mitzvah* does not apply. The restriction on embarking on sea voyages, however, would often be disruptive enough to one's work that the Rabbis set it aside in favor of the commandment to work.

PRESENTED BY
RABBI YITZHAK GROSSMAN, ROSH CHABURAH

KIDS KORNER

Who Am I?

#1 WHO AM I?

1. Three times a day.
2. You cover for me.
3. Twelve said me to their elder.
4. I am listen.

#2 WHO AM I?

1. I am not an app, but am on tablets.
2. I appear twice.
3. I was commanded once.
4. I am ten.

Last Week's Answers

#1 Moav (We were from the father, We did not let you pass, Our men are forbidden, Do not fight us.)

#2 Tisha B'av (I delay Havdallah, This year, I am not on my name, I don't have a keynote speaker, rather..., I end the third meal early.)

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

Win a
Ripstik!



Congratulations to
Ethan and
Alexander Blitz and
others on
answering last
week's questions

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 July 31st.

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