



The Greater Washington Community Kollel

SHABBOS DELIGHTS

TORAH MINUTE

IN MEMORY OF RABBI KALMAN WINTER ZT"l

No Cover-Up

Presented by Rabbi Moshe Sadwin, Kollel Scholar

And the garment that shall have an affliction... (Vayikra 13:47)

In Parshas Tazria the Torah discusses at length the concept of Tzora'as. Tzora'as is the affliction sent by Hashem as a consequence of certain sins (such as loshon hara and arrogance – see Arachin 16a for the complete list). While Tzora'as is typically a skin affliction, there are other types of Tzora'as. For instance, in the end of our Parsha, the Torah states that Tzora'as can affect a person's clothing. Garments that are afflicted with Tzora'as have to be quarantined, and if the affliction worsens, the garment must be burned.

Rav Dovid Feinstein offers a beautiful explanation as to why Tzora'as can affect one's garment. A person may have a character flaw that he or she knows requires improvement, but instead of addressing the issue, the person will try to cover it up and pretend it doesn't exist. By affecting clothing with Tzora'as, the Torah's message is that such a "covering" is also contaminated; he or she must remove that "clothing" and deal with those shortcomings instead of trying to conceal them. Hashem gives us the ability to change our ways and therefore sends the message through the Tzora'as to encourage us to stiffen our moral fiber and improve, instead of simply covering over our weaknesses.

This Shabbos we read Parshas Hachodesh as well. Parshas Hachodesh is about declaring the Jewish month upon the sighting of the new moon. Our sages tell us that the Jewish people are likened to the moon. Just as the moon reappears after its seeming disappearance, so too the Jewish people have the ability to bounce back even if they fall prey to sin. No iniquity is too egregious to be beyond repentance. The message of Parshas Hachodesh too is that we can, and we must try our best, to better our ways.

These two messages convey our potential to continually improve. May Hashem grant us the assistance to reach new heights beyond what we can imagine.

Wishing you a Good Shabbos!

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TABLE TALK

Point to Ponder

If the flesh will have an inflammation on its skin... (13:18)

If a person will have a burn from fire on his skin... (13:24)

The tzora'as that develops after an inflammation and the tzora'as that develops after a burn are identical. Why did the Torah list them separately? To teach us that, if a person has a half of tzora'as size from an inflammation and half of tzora'as size from a burn, they do not combine. (Rashi)

Any two items whose tuma are the same can combine to complete the required amount in order to transmit tuma. (Meela 4: 3)

Why don't these two types of tzora'as combine? Aren't their rules of tuma identical?

Parsha Riddle

When can one bug be forbidden to eat, and an identical bug be permitted to eat?

Please see next week's issue for the answer.

Last week's riddle:

When did a non-kohen perform the Avoda (Temple Service)?

Answer: Moshe performed the Avoda during the dedication of the Mishkan.

HATORAH V'HAMITZVAH

HALACHA INSIGHTS FROM THE PARSHA

In parashas Tazria, the Torah commands a woman who gives birth to bring two sacrificial offerings, an olah (burnt offering) and a chatas. 'Chatas' generally denotes a sin-offering, so the new mother's obligation to bring one is puzzling: what sin has she committed? A variety of solutions to this problem have been proposed:

- R. Shimon b. Yochai explains that in the agony of labor, a woman foreswears any further marital relations with her husband, and must therefore bring a chatas for violating her oath (Nidah 31b – cf. Rashi there and Ramban on our parashah). The Talmud, however, raises several objections (which it does not resolve) to this interpretation: the woman is a deliberate sinner, and a chatas is only brought for inadvertent transgressions; an oath can only be nullified by regret and the concomitant annulment of a sage, not an offering; the chatas for violating an oath is a sheep or goat, not a bird (as stipulated here).
- Abarbanel explains that no one experiences trouble and danger without having sinned, so a woman who experiences the trouble and danger of childbirth brings a chatas to atone for the sin that she has performed committed. R. Bachya b. Asher, however, rejects this approach, noting that the offering generally brought by one who has survived a dangerous situation is a thanksgiving-offering (todah), not a chatas. [It is also very difficult to understand how an experience such as childbirth, generally regarded in Judaism as a great blessing and one which women are presumed to long for, can be construed as evidence of sin.]
- R. Bachya himself explains that the chatas atones for the sin of Eve. This is a theologically provocative idea, since Judaism, unlike Christianity, does not generally emphasize mankind's need for atonement for the Original Sin of Adam and Eve.
- Some commentaries understand that this chatas is not actually a sin-offering (Toras Kohanim ch. 4), and the Biblical phrase "and the Kohen shall provide atonement (ve'chiper) for her" actually denotes cleansing, not atonement (Tosafos al Ha'Torah). This is obviously a highly anomalous understanding of chatas.

PRESENTED BY

RABBI YITZHAK GROSSMAN, ROSH CHABURAH

KIDS KORNER

Who Am I?

#1 WHO AM I?

1. I don't say, I 'says'.
2. I am not a load.
3. I whiten your hair.
4. My center may be healthy.

#2 WHO AM I?

1. I can start a treasure hunt.
2. Visit the barber.
3. Wash your clothes.
4. I lock you up.

Last Week's Answers

#1 (Drinking) Wine (I was a mitzvah last week, I am forbidden in the Beis Hamikdash, I am used in the Beis Hamikdash, I bring out your essence.)

#2 Kosher (I am for food, I am for tefillin, I can even be for phones, I have many symbols.)

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

Win a Roller Coaster Challenge Game!



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 7.

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