



The Greater Washington Community Kollel

SHABBOS DELIGHTS

TORAH MINUTE

IN MEMORY OF RABBI KALMAN WINTER ZT"l

Tiny Great Acts

Presented by Rabbi Moshe Sadwin, Kollel Scholar

"The nation did not travel until Miriam was brought in." (12:15)

In the end of our Parsha, Miriam speaks ill of her brother, Moshe, and is afflicted with tzora'as. As a result, Miriam is forced to leave the camp where the Jewish people resided and remain in quarantine for seven days. The Torah makes a point of mentioning that the nation didn't travel onward until Miriam was free to go.

Rashi, citing the Gemara in Sotah (9b), explains that Miriam was rewarded for her actions years earlier. When Moshe was placed in a basket in the Nile River, Miriam waited and watched over her brother until he was rescued by Pharaoh's daughter. As a reward, the entire Jewish nation waited for Miriam until she was healed before traveling onward.

The Sifsei Chachamim comments that the amount of time Miriam waited for Moshe was one third of an hour, while the nation waited seven days – over five hundred times more!

We see from here how great even the smallest of actions can be in the eyes of Hashem. Miriam's relatively minor act to watch over her brother - something quite natural for an older sister - was rewarded manifold. We should never underestimate the power of even a small and seemingly insignificant act because in truth nothing is inconsequential in Hashem's eyes.

Wishing you a Good Shabbos!

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TABLE TALK

Point to Ponder

Speak to Aaron and say to him, "When you ascend to kindle the Menorah..." (8:2)

Ascend, this teaches that there were steps that the Kohen would ascend in order to kindle the Menorah (Rashi).

You shall not ascend My Altar on steps, so that your nakedness will not be uncovered upon it (Yisro 20:23).

The Altar was outside of the Mishkan and yet the Kohen could not ascend via steps. It would seem that regarding the Menorah which is inside the Mishkan, steps should also be forbidden. Why are steps acceptable for the Menorah?

Parsha Riddle

A person should not go to the extreme with any trait... one should not be a glutton, nor fast every day; one should not be light headed nor be depressed. There is one trait that requires extremism and that is humility - one should not be haughty at all (Rambam Hilchos Dayos 2:3).

Where is there a hint to this halacha in the Parsha?

Please see next week's issue for the answer.

Last week's riddle:

On average, how many marital conflicts did Aharon HaKohen resolve daily? Answer: At least five. After Aaron died, 80,000 boys with the name Aaron escorted Aaron's coffin. These boys were named by their parents in honor of Aaron who had mediated conflicts in their marriage. (Kala Rabasi 3). Bnai Yisroel camped in the desert 14,200 days. $80,000 \div 14,200 = 5$. (Rav Moshe Aaron Stern zt'l)

HATORAH V'HAMITZVAH

HALACHA INSIGHTS FROM THE PARSHA

The end of parashas Behaaloscha relates Miriam's criticism of her brother Moshe, which the midrash explains to refer to his decision to forgo physical intimacy with his wife Tzipora. It characterizes this as lashon hara ("evil speech"), despite the fact that she intended Moshe's benefit (for him to have more children) as well as that of the world (since "He did not create [the earth] for emptiness; He fashioned it to be inhabited" - Isaiah 45:18. Sifre Devarim 24:9, with the commentary of R. Hillel). The Chofetz Chaim explains that even though constructive critical speech is permitted, and Miriam's intention was to ultimately reprimand Moshe for what she felt was his improper conduct in his marriage, she was nevertheless punished for summarily concluding that he had acted incorrectly without having first asked him to justify himself (Hilchos Lashon Hara beginning of Klal 8).

On the other hand, halachic authorities emphasize that it is imperative to engage in negative speech when necessary to forestall harm to an innocent victim. R. Yisrael Isserlin of Vilna goes so far as to declare that while "all the works of Mussar" have inveighed against the sin of lashon hara, he inveighs against the opposite, a greater and more prevalent sin: "holding oneself back from speaking when necessary, to save the oppressed from the hand of his oppressor" (Pischei Teshuvah siman 156).

The Rambam rules that one who fails to alert his fellow man about a plot against him violates the prohibition of "you shall not stand aside while your fellow's blood is shed" (Vayikra 19:16, Hilchos Rotzeach 1:14). Accordingly, contemporary authorities rule that a physician must reveal even confidential information about his patient when necessary to prevent harm to others. He must disclose the short-term terminal prognosis of a man to a young woman he is planning to marry who is ignorant of his condition, since her life would be devastated by becoming a widow shortly after marriage (Shut. Chelkas Yaakov EH #79), or a patient's epilepsy to the government's department of motor vehicles, since driving with such a condition involves substantial risk to the public (Shut. Yechave Daat 4:60).

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
Great Wall
of China
Lego Set



#1 WHO AM I?

1. I was a riddle.
2. I caused complaining.
3. I was bottled.
4. I revealed your piety.

#2 WHO AM I?

1. We were tilted.
2. We were all day.
3. Step up for me.
4. We caused a holiday.

Last Week's Answers

#1 Birchas Kohanim (I am recited daily, For some the priests recite me, For all on Yom Tov, I carry G-d's blessing.)

#2 176 (number of verses in Nasso) (I am like Bava Basra, Compare me to #119, My hint is Nachshon's father, One more than Avraham's life.)

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 16.

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On the Same Page Gemara (Men) – Rabbi Shaps 8:00pm @ YISE, 1132 Arcola Ave.

& Rabbi Sadwin 9:00pm @ SEHC

Tehillim: An In-Depth Analysis (Women) – Mrs. Winter 8:15pm @ YISE