



The Greater Washington Community Kollel

SHABBOS DELIGHTS

TORAH MINUTE

IN MEMORY OF RABBI KALMAN WINTER ZT" L

A Taste of Moshiach

Presented by Rabbi Hillel Shaps, Director of Special Projects and Kollel Scholar

In this week's Parsha, the Torah foretells a time when G-d will "circumcise your heart and the hearts of your offspring." (30:6) The Ramban explains that this refers to the era of Moshiach — after the arrival of the Messiah — when our yetzer hara (evil inclination) will be removed. Our hearts will no longer pursue temporal satisfaction but will instead naturally seek out true spiritual goodness.

Rabbi Shlomo Wolbe (AleI Shur, Vol. 2) teaches that Rosh Hashanah contains within it the power to tap into this very aspect of the era of Moshiach. The Talmud (Rosh Hashanah 16a) reveals that the reason the shofar is blown both before and again during the Mussaf Shemoneh Esrei is "to mix up the Satan." Quoting the Jerusalem Talmud, Tosafos explains that when the Satan (yetzer hara) hears the shofar the first time — aware that the arrival of Moshiach portends his demise — he becomes apprehensive. He is aware of Yeshaya's prophecy, "It will be on that day, He will blow a great shofar." (Isaiah 27:13) When the Satan hears the shofar's sounds a second time (during Mussaf), he determines that his end has certainly come and halts his heavenly prosecution.

While this narrative may seem enigmatic at first, Rabbi Wolbe derives from it a beautiful message. As we blow the shofar each Rosh Hashanah, our awareness of G-d and His mastery of the world is heightened. Conversely, the yetzer hara — our inclination to seek the material offerings of this world — retreats. Moshiach has not yet arrived but, on Rosh Hashanah, we have an opportunity to experience a small sense of that future time.

While in the past we may not have been able to explain it, each of us has felt this heightened connection and profound clarity on Rosh Hashanah. It becomes easier to concentrate in prayer and we experience moments when we feel uplifted by inspiration. Let us recognize the great opportunity afforded us by a weakened yetzer hara and use that time to recommit ourselves in our service of G-d throughout the coming year. May we all merit to be inscribed for a good year!

Wishing you a Good Shabbos and Good Yom Tov!

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TABLE TALK

Point to Ponder

One should eat and drink and rejoice on Rosh Hashana. (Orach Chaim 597, 1)

Some are of the opinion that it is a mitzva to fast on Rosh Hashana. (Rema 597, 3)

You should rejoice in your Holidays (Reah 16, 14)

All holidays are connected one to the other; even on Rosh Hashana one must rejoice. (Mordechai Rosh Hashana)

On all Yomim Tovim it is forbidden to fast. Why would it be different in regard to the Yom Tov of Rosh Hashana?

Parsha Riddle

What is the greatest number of days (not including Rosh Hashana and Yom Kippur) that Ashkenazim recite selichos in Elul and Tishrei in any year?

Please see next week's issue for the answer.

Last week's riddle:

There are forty nine curses in the Tochacha in Parshas Bechukosai. How many are there in Parshas Ki Savo? Why the difference?

Answer: 98 - symbolizing the new rule of arvus (that each Jew is responsible for the actions of others) that was learned from a verse at the end of the first Tochacha.

HATORAH V'HAMITZVAH

HALACHA INSIGHTS FROM THE PARSHA

In parashas Nitzavim (30:11-12), Moses reassures the Jewish people: "For this commandment ... It is not in heaven, [for you] to say, 'Who can ascend to the heaven for us ... ?'" Rashi (following one approach in Erubin 55a) explains "'It is not in heaven' - for had it been in heaven, you would have needed to ascend after it in order to study it."

The general question of how much one is obligated to spend in order to fulfill a mitzvah is surprisingly unclear. The Talmud seems to take for granted that a third of one's assets is a price that one is not expected to pay, even if he will consequently be unable to perform the mitzvah (and not merely need to postpone it - Bava Kama 9b and the commentaries thereto), and even warns against contributing more than a fifth of one's assets to charity (and by extension, spending that much on other mitzvos - Kesubos 50a), but does not articulate how much one is required to spend in order to perform a mitzvah. It records that Rabban Gamliel once purchased a lulav for a thousand zuz - an exorbitant sum - but it declares this to have been indicative of his great love for mitzvos, implying that such expenditure is not mandatory (Sukkah 41b).

Based on the above sources, some authorities rule that one is not obligated to expend "a large fortune" on any single mitzvah, such as an esrog and lulav (Rema Shulchan Aruch OC 656:1). Some authorities do mandate the spending of up to ten percent or even twenty percent of one's assets when necessary to perform a mitzvah (Chayei Adam 21:5; Mishneh Berurah ibid. s.k. 8), but others disagree and maintain that there is no fixed percentage of one's assets that one must spend on a single mitzvah (Aruch Hashulchan ibid. seif 6; R. Osher Weiss, Hotzaos V'Tirchah B'Kiyum Mitzvos [(5)777]). Some authorities propose that one is only obligated to spend a "reasonable" sum, i.e., what the item he is purchasing is actually "worth" (Shut. Chelkas Yoav Dinei Ones anaf 7; R. Weiss ibid.).

PRESENTED BY
RABBI YITZHAK GROSSMAN, ROSH CHABURAH

KIDS KORNER

Who Am I?

#1 WHO AM I?

1. I might have a black eye.
2. My head might be cut off.
3. I might be sweet.
4. I won't be "beat."

#2 WHO AM I?

1. I have two beginnings.
2. I am not 365.
3. I am 12 or 13.
4. I am not repeat.

Last Week's Answers

#1 Elul (I am now, I am twenty nine, Your heart and your children's hearts, I am for my beloved...)

#2 Bikkurim (I am first, I am tied, Historical reminder, Stand for me.)

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

Congratulations to Yehuda Leigh on winning a Boxer Robot!



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
Dec 3.

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Greater Washington Community Kollel wishes all of its friends, supporters, participants, and the entire community, a good Yom Tov and a sweet new year!

May you and your family be blessed with health, happiness, and peace!