



The Greater Washington Community Kollel

SHABBOS DELIGHTS

TORAH MINUTE

IN MEMORY OF RABBI KALMAN WINTER ZT" L

Giving it All You've Got

Presented by Rabbi Zacharia Schwartz, Kollel Adjunct

"And it was at the end of some days and Kayin brought from the fruit of the earth an offering to Hashem." (4:3)

Rashi explains that the fruit *Kayin* brought as an offering to *Hashem* was from his low quality produce. Rabbi Moshe Feinstein, in *Darash Moshe*, wonders why *Kayin* would proactively bring an offering to *Hashem* yet choose low quality fruits as his gift. Rabbi Feinstein explains that *Kayin* understood the value of bringing a sacrifice to *Hashem*. But, he reasoned, since *Hashem* receives no benefit from the sacrifice being offered, the quality of the gift really makes no difference. So it made sense to use low quality produce. *Kayin's* mistake was in the fact that there is more to a *Mitzvah* than the act itself. Indeed, the feeling and energy that is put into the *Mitzvah* is of fundamental importance. Therefore, the low quality produce that *Kayin* used for the sacrifice showed a lack of enthusiasm and feeling for the *Mitzvah*, which severely degraded the value of the *Mitzvah* itself.

This is an idea that is important for us to consider in everyday life. Surely, our days are filled with many *Mitzvos*. However, we should take a moment to introspect and think about how many of those *Mitzvos* are done by rote, absent of much or any feeling, and how many are done with energy and enthusiasm. Perhaps now that we are beginning a fresh new year and beginning our learning of the *Torah* anew, it would be a good opportunity to choose a couple of *Mitzvos* to perform with renewed enthusiasm and vigor. May we merit to be enthusiastic at all times about our *Torah* learning and *Mitzvah* performance, and draw ever closer to *Hashem*.

Wishing you a Good Shabbos!

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TABLE TALK

Point to Ponder

"Hashem said, 'Let there be a firmament between the waters, and let it separate between water and water.' Hashem created the rakia (firmament) and separated between the waters which were beneath the rakia and the waters which were above the rakia; and so it was." (1: 6-7)

When Hashem created the *rakia*, the Torah wrote a verse relating His command to create it and another verse concerning its creation. This is unlike all the other creations where Hashem stated the command to create an item and it was automatically created. For example, during the creation of light on the first day, we find that Hashem commanded that there should be light, and light appeared. Why by the creation of the *rakia* did Hashem Himself actually create it after He gave the order for it to be created?

Parsha Riddle

Which creature was given the opportunity to live the longest?

Please see next week's issue for the answer.

Last week's riddle:

How many Mitzvos are performed by the entire body?

Answer:

Two. 1) Sitting in the Sukkah, 2) Mikveh

HATORAH V'HAMITZVAH

HALACHA INSIGHTS FROM THE PARSHA

It is striking that the very first parashah in the Torah, parashas Bereishis, relates or alludes to no fewer than three episodes of homicide: Cain's murder of Abel, and Lamech's accidental killings of his ancestor Cain and his own son Tubal-cain (Yalkut Shimoni #38). The legal portions of the Torah prescribe various forms of punishment, atonement, and restitution for various forms of homicide, including capital punishment, exile, and monetary reparations, but beyond these, there emerged in medieval Ashkenaz the prescription of rigorous penance to atone for what today would be termed manslaughter: accidental homicide involving at least some degree of negligence.

R. Moshe Isserles (Rema) discusses the case of a man who intended to empty a rifle by discharging it toward the sky, but something went wrong and the gun discharged prematurely, killing the man's servant. Rema rules that this is considered "almost ones (an unavoidable accident)", but nevertheless advises that the perpetrator should be "worried for his soul", and therefore prescribes (relatively) moderate penance: exile for a year, during which the perpetrator shall not sleep in the same place for two nights; daily fasting from "today" until Yom Kippur (except for the days on which tachanun is not recited); daily vidui (formal confession), morning and evening, for a complete year, and the establishment of the anniversary of the accident as a day of weeping, fasting, confession, and supplication (Shut. Rema #37).

R. Meir Eisenstadt, also discussing a case of accidental homicide by firearm, rules that the prescription of not sleeping two nights in the same place applies only to deliberate homicide, since it is based on G-d's punishment of the murderer Cain to "become a vagrant and a wanderer on earth" (4:12). He therefore suggests that Rema's case may have been considered at least "somewhat deliberate", since it is foreseeable that handling a firearm with insufficient skill can cause it to discharge in an uncontrolled manner. In the case he is discussing, however, he considers the fatal shot to have been a freak accident, and not something that a reasonable person should have anticipated, and the prescription of wandering is therefore unwarranted (Shut. Panim Meiros 1:85).

PRESENTED BY
RABBI YITZHAK GROSSMAN, ROSH CHABURAH

KIDS KORNER

Who Am I?

#1 WHO AM I?

1. I ruled with another.
2. I am not a male child.
3. I referred to Yaakov.
4. When I leave, Shabbos comes.

#2 WHO AM I?

1. I was created from surgery.
2. My title defines my source.
3. My name defines my purpose.
4. I caused pain.

Last Week's Answers

#1 Clouds of Glory (I was traveler's protection, I am from the sky, I am not "answer me the honor," I was earth moving.)

#2 Arba Minim (4 Species) (I am mostly green, I am leafy, I partly smell, I am bound.)

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

WIN a
DIXIT
Game



THE NEXT
RAFFLE WILL BE
Dec 3.

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!

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