



The Greater Washington Community Kollel

SHABBOS DELIGHTS

TORAH MINUTE

IN MEMORY OF RABBI KALMAN WINTER ZT"L

Small Treasures

Presented by Rabbi Zacharia Schwartz, Kollel Adjunct

"When you will come to the land...and I will place a plague of tzara'as in the house...and the owner of the house will come to the kohen and he will tell the kohen, 'something like a plague has appeared to me in the house.'" (14:34-35)

Rashi explains that the Torah is instructing the owner of the tzara'as stricken house not to proclaim that the house definitely has *tzara'as*, even if he or she is certain that is the case. Rather, the owner must use less definitive wording in describing the situation to the Kohen – that the house has "something like *tzara'as*". Rabbi Moshe Feinstein explains that this prescription teaches us to avoid uttering affirmatively negative words. Rabbi Feinstein wonders, however, why *tzara'as* on one's house should be viewed as negative. After all, our sages teach us that Hashem would inflict a house with *tzara'as* so that when the wall was torn down, as is necessary with *tzara'as*, treasures that the Canaanites had hidden in the walls would become revealed and enrich the owner.

Rabbi Feinstein answers that all of a person's resources have the potential to be used for charity and kindness. Hashem could certainly have made the person rich without first forcing the homeowner to replace his or her wall. Therefore, the fact that the riches were obtained only after first suffering a loss is considered negative. Every penny that was lost could have been used to help someone.

We see from here the true value of our resources – money, time, and energy. Even if the amount seems small and insignificant to us, that small amount may mean the world to another person. Let us never forget that what seems like extra to us may be very valuable and useful to someone else, and may we always strive to think of the needs of others and help them in any way that we can.

Wishing you a Good Shabbos!

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TABLE TALK

Point to Ponder

If the tzara'as will erupt on the skin and the tzara'as will cover the entire skin of the afflicted... (13, 12)

Tzara'as grows on healthy skin, not on afflicted skin. If so, why does the verse refer to the tzara'as as growing and covering on afflicted skin?

Parsha Riddle

How can one miss counting a day of the Omer and still be able to recite a bracha the next day?

Please see next week's issue for the answer.

Last week's riddle:

Why is the Karban Olah (Elevation-Offering) the first karban mentioned in the Torah?

Answer: Since the Karban Olah was brought for the sin of improper thoughts, it is appropriate that it be the first offering mentioned, since every sin begins with improper thoughts.

HATORAH V'HAMITZVAH

HALACHA INSIGHTS FROM THE PARSHA

In parashas Tazria, the Torah commands (13:45-46): "And the person with tzaraas ... he shall cloak himself up to his lips; he is to call out: "Contaminated, contaminated!" All the days that the affliction is upon him ... he shall dwell in isolation; his dwelling shall be outside the city." As we have previously noted (this column, Tazria-Metzora 5775), many commentators understand these instructions from an epidemiological perspective: leprosy is contagious, so the leper is quarantined, and he utilizes a makeshift face mask to avoid infecting others (Vayikra Rabbah Metzora 16:3; Ramban 12:15 and 14:7; Bechor Shor 13:46, Minchah B'lulah 13:45-46).

R. Moshe Isserles discusses a landlord who leased space in his home to a tenant. The tenant's wife subsequently contracted an illness, involving fever and / or jaundice, and the landlord wished to vacate the lease due to (what he believed to be) the disease's contagiousness. R. Isserles adopts the puzzling stance that disease in general is not contagious, adducing as proof the absence of any distinction acknowledged in halachah between contagious and non-contagious diseases in the context of the mitzvah to visit the sick (Shut. Ha'Rema #20). Others authorities reject R. Isserles's epidemiological view as well as his assumption that the mitzvah of visiting the sick applies equally to patients of all diseases. In particular, R. Haim Palagi rebuts at length R. Isserles's denial of contagion, adducing in support of its reality, inter alia, the epidemiological perspective toward tzaraas mentioned above (Shut. Nishmas Kol Chai 2:CM:49)

Some commentators, however, insist that the tzaraas of parashas Tazria is not a contagious disease, and that it is "quite impossible to think that this chapter deals with sanitary or prophylactic measures against disease" (R. Hirsch [London 1958], pp. 355-60). R. Yonasan Eybeschutz harmonizes the two perspectives toward tzaraas, explaining that it actually has two versions: The one that is the subject of our parashah is not a contagious disease, but there is also a form of tzaraas that is a contagious disease, and does not entail the ritual impurity that is the subject of our parashah. In this vein, he explains that the four metzoraim mentioned in the haftarah to parashas Metzora did not have the former type of tzaraas, but the latter, and their expulsion from the city was consequently not a fulfillment of the ritual requirement of the Torah but merely a prophylactic measure against contagion (Ahavas Yehonasan to that haftarah).

PRESENTED BY
RABBI YITZHAK GROSSMAN, ROSH CHABURAH

KIDS KORNER

Who Am I?

#1 WHO AM I?

1. We are double.
2. We are similar.
3. Our end is different.
4. One makes the red white.

#2 WHO AM I?

1. We start after "Shabbos."
2. You can count on us.
3. We are dazed and weak, but not really.
4. Stand for us.

Last Week's Answers

#1 Parshas Tzav (My name is my number, I have two letters, I require zerizus, I contain the last week's law.)

#2 Karpas (I can mean hard work, Less than an olive, Wash for me, Don't confuse me with your salary.)

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

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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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