



The Greater Washington Community Kollel

SHABBOS DELIGHTS

TORAH MINUTE

IN MEMORY OF RABBI KALMAN WINTER ZT"l

Today is the Day

Presented by Rabbi Zacharia Schwartz, Kollel Adjunct

**"See that I have placed before you today life and good and death and evil...
and you shall choose life." (30:15-19)**

Having just provided a vivid description of the prosperity that the Jewish people merit when we follow the Torah, and the utter devastation that befalls us when we sin, the *Torah* implores us to choose the path of life and goodness. Rabbi Moshe Feinstein finds it curious that the *Torah* specifies that this choice between good and evil was placed before us "today". Rabbi Feinstein explains that the *Torah* is teaching us that each and every day presents us with a fresh opportunity to make the right choices. On the one hand, someone may feel that he or she has been making the wrong choices for so long that it's hopeless to make a change. On the other hand, someone may feel that they have been good for so long that they can rest on their laurels and no longer even need to worry about his or her decisions. Both of these attitudes, writes Rabbi Feinstein, are incorrect. No matter what we did yesterday, today is a new opportunity, while also presenting its own new challenges.

With *Rosh Hashana* and *Yom Kippur* right around the corner, this message could not be more timely. These days are a perfect opportunity to take advantage of the fresh start that is always available to us. They should also serve as a reminder that no matter how much we may have accomplished until now, there is more that is expected of us and more that we can grow. May we indeed choose to make use of these great opportunities, and may we indeed choose life.

Wishing you a Good Shabbos!

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This week's Shabbos Delights is sponsored in the merit of a Refuah Shleimah for
Yitzchak Eliezer ben Sara Faiga בתשה"י

TABLE TALK

Point to Ponder

You are standing today, all of you, before Hashem... (29, 9)

Why was the verse, 'You are standing today' juxtaposed with the curses in Parshas Ki Savo? Because Bnei Yisroel had heard nearly one hundred curses and when their faces turned pallid, they said, "Who can survive in the face of this?" Moshe began to appease them, 'You are standing today,' although you have caused much anger to Hashem, He has not destroyed you and behold you exist before Him. (Rashi)

Doesn't it seem counterproductive to tell Bnei Yisrael that they sinned and did not really get punished, therefore they should not fear the curses waiting for those who transgress the Will of Hashem?

Parsha Riddle

How is it possible that even after one has waited six hours after eating meat, one would not be allowed to eat milk products?

Please see next week's issue for the answer.

Last week's riddle:

How can one fulfill the mitzvah of Bikkurim nowadays?

Answer: One who gives a gift to a Talmid Chacham, it is as if he brought bikkurim (Kesubos 105b).

HATORAH V'HAMITZVAH

HALACHA INSIGHTS FROM THE PARSHA

In parshas Vayeilech (31:19), Hashem commands Moshe: "So now, write this song for yourselves, and teach it to the Children of Israel, place it in their mouth, so that this song shall be for Me a witness against the Children of Israel." Although the simple meaning of the word "song" (as per Rashi and Ramban) is the song of Haazinu, our sages interpret the verse as a commandment - the last of the 613 mitzvos - upon every Jew to write a sefer Torah. (Sanhedrin 21b)

Most people, however, do not attempt to fulfill this mitzvah, and various justifications for this have been proposed:

- The Rosh (beginning of Hilchos Sefer Torah) notes that today, unlike in earlier eras, sifrei Torah are relegated to ceremonial public reading, and are not used for study. He therefore rules that the mitzvah today obligates the writing of sefarim that are used for study, such as chumashim, mishnayos, gemaros, and their commentaries. Some understand that even according to the Rosh, the obligation to write a sefer Torah remains in force, and the Rosh is just expanding the scope of the mitzvah (Beis Yosef and Taz YD #270), but others understand that the obligation to write seforim supplants the original obligation to write a sefer Torah. (Drishah and Shach ibid.)
- The Sha'agas Aryeh (#36) proposes that the mitzvah has fallen into a state of desuetude due to our lack of confidence in the correctness of our traditions regarding the plene and defective spellings of the words of the Torah. Insofar as we are unsure of the correct spellings, it is impossible to fulfill the mitzvah. (Minchas Chinuch, however, rejects this argument.)
- R. Moshe Feinstein (Shut. Igros Moshe YD 1:163) mentions the previous justifications, and adds an additional one: in general, one is not obligated to spend an inordinate sum in order to fulfill a mitzvah, even if in consequence he will forfeit the opportunity to perform the mitzvah. R. Moshe argues that this should apply to the mitzvah writing a sefer Torah as well, and this explains why many pious individuals of limited means did not fulfill the mitzvah (even by the purchase of sefarim as per the position of the Rosh).

PRESENTED BY
RABBI YITZHAK GROSSMAN, ROSH CHABURAH

KIDS KORNER

Who Am I?

#1 WHO AM I?

1. I am called a song.
2. I am called a testimony.
3. I mean teaching.
4. I am married.

#2 WHO AM I?

1. I am for Elul and the Ten.
2. I contain the thirteen.
3. For some I am a month.
4. Mincha and I have something in common.

Last Week's Answers

#1 Tochacha (Rebuke) (I have seven parts, I am said softly, I was opened for Yosheyahu, I am a "joyless" product.)

#2 Selichos (I could be sorry, I wake you early, Fall on your face, I need a four day introduction.)

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

WIN a Claw Machine Arcade 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 raffle has been postponed until after the shuls are reopened. We are still accepting entries to the raffle.

KOLLEL BULLETIN BOARD

INSPIRATION FOR ROSH HASHANA

● Pre-Rosh Hashana Symposium

Words of insight and inspiration from Rabbis of our community.

Tues, Sept 15, 8:15pm

Zoom: <https://zoom.us/j/3497542180> Password: GWCK

Dial-in number (US): 301-715-8592 Meeting ID: 349 754 2180

● Pre-Rosh Hashana Kumzitz

with Simcha Leiner presented by YISE and GWCK

Wed, Sept 16, 8:30pm.

Stay tuned for Zoom details.