



The Greater Washington Community Kollel

SHABBOS DELIGHTS

TORAH MINUTE

IN MEMORY OF RABBI KALMAN WINTER ZT"l

Our Thanksgiving Offering

Presented by Rabbi Moshe Sadwin, Kollel Adjunct

"If he shall offer it for a Thanksgiving Offering" (7:12)

Parshas Tzav is the first source in the Torah for the Korban Todah, the Thanksgiving Offering. This offering is brought by a person whose life was spared from a dangerous situation. Specifically, there are four scenarios from which a person would bring a Korban Todah – arriving safely after sea or desert travel, overcoming illness and being freed from imprisonment.

It is noteworthy that this Parsha is almost always read on the Shabbos before Pesach. Pesach is a time of gratitude to Hashem for the countless miracles He performed for our ancestors when they left Egypt. One of the highlights of the Pesach Seder is the joyous singing of Dayeinu. In it we list a number of the many kindnesses Hashem did, from the actual redemption from Egypt, to the nurturing of the Jewish people during their travels in the desert, and everything in between. In fact, Rav Pam points out that Dayeinu is, in essence, a verbal Korban Todah for His countless generosity to the Jewish people.

The connection between Pesach and the Korban Todah can be grasped on a deeper level as well. The Vilna Gaon points out that the number four is a recurring theme throughout the Pesach Seder. There are four cups of wine, four questions, four sons, and even four Matzos, after the middle one is broken into two. He explains that this number four is representative of the four scenarios from which a person must bring the Korban Todah. Moreover, the Jewish people themselves were spared from the four archetypal situations that require the Korban Todah –they were imprisoned in Egypt, they were physically ill from all the hard labor, they crossed the sea, and they crossed the desert. The Pesach Seder is like our Korban Todah to Hashem.

As this season of thanks and redemption is upon us, let us increase our thanks to Hashem for all His kindnesses, both those in years past, as well as the present. May we merit to bring an actual Korban Todah in the Beis Hamikdash soon in our days!

Wishing you a Good Shabbos and a Good Yom Tov!

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TABLE TALK

Point to Ponder

In early times our ancestors were idol-worshippers, but now Hashem has brought us near to worship Him. (Haggadah Shel Pesach)

Why do we begin the story of our Exodus from Mitzrayim with the history of our forefathers' idolatrous ways?

In addition, why do we interject into the story of our ancestors serving other gods that Hashem brought us close to Him and His Service?

Parsha Riddle

In which way is Chol HaMoed stricter than Shabbos or Yom Tov?

Please see next week's issue for the answer.

Last week's riddle:

In which situations would a father not be required to fast for his minor first-born son on Erev Pesach?

Answer: Answer: 1) If the father already participated in a seudas mitzva on Erev Pesach. 2) First born boys born after midnight Erev Pesach in Mitzrayim were not killed in the Plague of the First-born. A son born after midnight on Erev Pesach does not obligate his father to fast that year because the son would not have been in danger during his first year (Sh'vus Yakov). 3) A boy younger than thirty days old (Mishne Berurah). (Contact your Rav for final ruling)

HATORAH V'HAMITZVAH

HALACHA INSIGHTS FROM THE PARSHA

Parashas Tzav (7:11-15) discusses the korban todah (thanksgiving offering), which the Talmud (Berachos 54b) explains was brought by four categories of people: seafarers, those who walk in the desert, one who was ill and recovered, and one who was incarcerated in prison and went out. The Torah prescribes that four types of bread be brought along with the animal sacrifice itself: three varieties of matzah, and one of chametz.

The Mishnah (Menachos 7:1) specifies further that each of the four types of bread comprised ten loaves, and that all the bread together consisted of twenty isaron of flour, ten for the ten chametz loaves, and ten for all thirty of the matzah loaves combined. (An isaron is the volume of 43.2 eggs; in practical terms, an isaron of flour is assumed to contain somewhere between 2.6 and 4.95 pounds of flour [R. Dovid Heber, Kashrus Kurrents, Fall 2004].) It follows that three matzah loaves consisted of one isaron of flour, and this is the basis of a custom, apparently originating in medieval Ashkenaz, to bake the three matzos of the Seder out of an isaron of flour, since the Exodus from Egypt was analogous to going out of prison, and so the matzos we eat at the Seder allude to the korban todah (Rosh Pesachim 10:30).

This custom was apparently universal throughout Ashkenaz for centuries, with numerous Ashkenazic authorities recording it and not mentioning any alternate practice. Indeed, the custom was taken so seriously by these authorities that they went so far as to rule that if one of the triplet of matzos was lost, an entirely new triplet should be baked, in part because of the requirement that all three matzos be baked from the same isaron (Shut. Maharil #58).

More recently, however, some Ashkenazic authorities have objected to the custom on various grounds, including the practical concern that baking matzos in such a fashion may engender delay and the consequent possibility of the dough becoming chametz (Beis Meir OC end of siman 475; Mishnah Berurah ibid. s.k. 46; Aruch ha-Shulchan ibid. se'if 18). They have also noted that the custom is no longer universally followed, or even not followed at all, and today it is virtually, if not totally, unheard of.

PRESENTED BY

RABBI YITZHAK GROSSMAN, ROSH CHABURAH

KIDS KORNER

Who Am I?

#1 WHO AM I?

1. I can mean "hard work."
2. Less than an olive.
3. Wash for me.
4. Don't confuse me with your salary.

#2 WHO AM I?

1. For some I am green.
2. For some I am white.
3. Dip me.
4. Try not to cry.

Last Week's Answers

#1 Small letters in the Torah (I am an aleph and a hey, The daled is not like me, I make it sound like happenstance, Do not judge me by my size.)

#2 Wine (I introduce Shabbos, Next week I'll be four, I am used as a separator, You overuse me on Purim.)

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

The Kollel's virtual classes will resume Wednesday, April 7.

