The Greater Washington Community Kollel

ELIGHTS

TORAH MINUTE

IN MEMORY OF RABBI KALMAN WINTER ZT''L

Food For Thought

Presented by Rabbi Moshe Sadwin, Kollel Adjunct

"And you shall place the show bread in front of Me continually." (25:30)

One of the prominent features of the *Mishkan* (Tabernacle) was the *Shulchan*, the table that contained the *lechem hapanim* (show bread). These loaves of bread were uniquely shaped as their two ends faced upwards such that they were like two faces looking at each other. What lesson can we derive from this unusual shape of the loaves?

Rabbi Dovid Feinstein explains that the *lechem hapanim* teach us that even when we eat, we should not be thinking primarily about ourselves, but rather about what more we could do to serve Hashem. The two faces on the loaves signify that, as we eat, we should have the needs of others continually in mind. We should give thought as to whether we know of someone struggling to put food on the table and commit to sharing our food with them even though we will have less for ourselves.

The real measure of our commitment to Hashem and His Torah is not only calculated in how much Torah we study or how fervently we pray, but also how we eat. One who can master his or her physical desires for the sake of Heaven engages in the highest level of service of Hashem. Along with Torah study, prayer, and the performance of *Mitzvos*, we must also strive to serve Hashem in every deed, even the most mundane of acts.

Wishing you a Good Shabbos!

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TABLE TALK

Parsha Riddle

Point to Ponder

Ten amos the length of each plank... (26:16)

From here we learn the height of the Mishkan was ten amos (Rashi). The height of the Kohanim and Leviim were ten amos (Shabbos 92b).

How was Aharon able to enter the Mishkan with his hat on? Aharon, with his hat, must have been taller than ten amos! Furthermore, there were steps in front of the Menorah. How was Aharon able to ascend them in order to clean the Menorah?

HATORAH V'HAMITZVAH

HALACHA INSIGHTS FROM THE PARSHA

In *parashas Terumah*, after describing the form of the wooden *kerashim* (planks) that were to constitute the walls of the Tabernacle and stating the number of *kerashim* to be used for each of the Tabernacle's various walls, Hashem commands:

You shall erect the Tabernacle according to its manner (ke-mishpato) (26:30)

The Yerushalmi (*Shabbas* 12:3) notes the apparently anomalous use of the term "*mishpat*" (ordinance), which generally denotes civil law (as in the opening words of *parashas Mishpatim*, which deals with civil law):

Is there a *mishpat* for wood? Rather, whichever *keresh* merited to be placed in the north should be (consistently) placed in the north; in the south, (consistently) in the south.

This principle, that the components involved in a *mitzvah* should be maintained consistently in the same configuration and not swapped with each other is invoked by *halachic* authorities in a variety of contexts, including the following:

- The Maharil (*Hilchos Succah*) reports that his teacher R. Shalom (of Neustadt) would mark the boards used as the walls of his *succah* with the letters א, ב, κ in order to ensure that they remained in the same configuration from year to year.
- The Shelah (Chullin Ner Mitzvah) rules that whichever of the tzitzis of one's tallis were originally placed near one's head should always be placed near the head, and he explains that this is the reason for the atarah of the tallis, to make sure that the top and bottom of the tallis are not swapped. The Magen Avraham (siman 8 s.k. 6), however, records that the Arizal was not particular to always keep the same side of the tallis near his head, and the Bikkurei Yaakov (siman 630 s.k. 16) rejects the extension of the Yerushalmi's principle to both succah and tzitzis on the grounds that in the Tabernacle, both the north and south sides had unique aspects of holiness, since they were closer to the Shulchan (Table) and Menorah respectively, whereas in the contexts of succah and tzitzis, neither side has more holiness than the other.
- The Radvaz (6:2286) rules that *tefillin* of Rabbeinu Tam may not be converted to *tefillin* of Rashi (by rearranging the order of the four *parashiyos*). One of his reasons for this is the principle of the Yerushalmi, which disallows moving the *parashiyos* from their original Rabbeinu Tam locations to the new Rashi locations.

RABBI YITZHAK GROSSMAN, ROSH CHABURAH

Which of the vessels of the Mishkan caused the death of many people, Jews and non-Jews?

Please see next week's issue for the answer.

Last week's riddle:

What area of Torah should one learn if one wants to become wise?

Answer: Monetary law (Bava Basra 175b)

KIDS KORNER

Who Am I?

#1 WHO AM I ?

- 1. I was gold.
- 2. I had blossoms.
- 3. I had fruit.
- 4. You can find my picture in Italy

#2 WHO AM I ?

- **1**. I was hidden away.
- **2.** I was a three in one deal.
- 3. My place was by the rock.
- 4. I was uplifting

Last Week's Answers

- #1 Eved Ivri (Jewish Slave) (I work for you, I am your master, I came for theft, If I stay too long I may become holey.)
- 2. #2 Naaseh V'nishma (Angelic secret, My utterance saved the world, Impulsive? First act.)



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