NOACH 5787

The Greater Washington Community Kollel

SHABBOS DELIGHTS

Sponsored by the Cypess Family Foundation

TORAH MINUTE

IN MEMORY OF RABBI KALMAN WINTER ZT"L

A Window to the World

Presented by Rabbi Hillel Shaps, Director

In His instructions for building the *teivah* (ark), Hashem commands Noach to make a "*tzohar.*" (6:16) Rashi offers two interpretations for the word *tzohar*: "Some say it was a window and some say it was a beautiful stone that provided light." The Chizkuni reconciles these two opinions. He explains that the instruction was to make a window opening and to place a translucent stone in it. That would allow light to pass through but keep out the rain water.

In addition to the practical explanation of this instruction, Rav Menachem Bentzion Zacks suggests that there was a subtle message being conveyed to Noach – as well as an instruction for all time:

Make a window for your teivah.

A person can be financially comfortable or spiritually secure and still remain in their own *teivah* – their own protected world. The Torah reminds us that we must have a window through which to look beyond ourselves, to notice the needs of others, both material and spiritual, and to be there to extend a hand in support.

Rav Kalman Winter zt"l, whose 14th yahrzeit is this week, was a man with a window to the world. Constantly focused on the needs of others, he inspired and influenced the members of his shul, the broader Greater Washington community, and beyond. This vision found a lasting expression with the establishment of the Greater Washington Community Kollel – an organization dedicated to making Torah accessible, relevant, and inspiring to Jews throughout the community.

For 18 years, the Kollel has carried forward this vision, bringing the light of Torah and Jewish values to people throughout Greater Washington. Through its diverse programming, the Kollel seeks to inspire and educate Jews at every level, making meaningful Torah learning accessible to all.

Learning with the Kollel takes many forms: in-depth Gemara and Halacha study, engaging classes for beginners, learning opportunities for women, thought-provoking lectures, one-on-one and small-group study, online offerings, WhatsApp groups, and more. Each initiative provides another opportunity to connect people with the depth, beauty, and relevance of Torah.

As we celebrate 18 years of enriching Torah life in Greater Washington, we invite you to partner with us in sustaining and expanding this vital mission. From October 18–20, we will be raising $250,000 to help ensure that the Kollel can continue reaching and inspiring Jews throughout our community. Please open *your* window and join us in bringing the light of Torah to others.

Wishing you a Good Shabbos!



TABLE TALK

Point to Ponder

Make for yourself a Teivah of gopher wood… (6:14)

A boat is called an "aniya" or a "sefina." Why is the Teivah called a Teivah, which means an ark or a box?

Parsha Riddle

Who in the Torah had a father and father-in-law with the same name?

Please see next week's issue for the answer.

Last week's riddle:
During which two times of the year is the "Shemonei Esrei" in Eretz Yisrael different from the one outside Eretz Yisrael (besides for the second day of yomtov)?
Answer: 1) During Chol Hamoed Succos and Pesach - in Eretz Yisrael they only recite that day's korban, not two days. 2) In Eretz Yisrael, they begin to recite 'Vsein tal umatar livracha' on 7 Cheshvan, while outside of Eretz Yisrael it is begun on December 4 or 5.

HATORAH V'HAMITZVAH

HALACHA INSIGHTS FROM THE PARSHA

In *parashas Noach* (8:8-9), the Torah relates:
Then he [Noach] sent out the dove from him to see whether the waters had subsided from the face of the ground. But the dove could not find a resting place for the sole of its foot, and it returned to him to the Ark, for water was upon the surface of all the earth. So he put forth his hand, and took it, and brought it to him to the Ark.
The *Ha'amek Davar* explains:
The dove is trained for this, to carry letters far away and to return something in its mouth. …
To the Ark. The text explains that it did not actually return to him, but **to the Ark** – near the Ark, and this was because it had nothing in its mouth to return as it was trained to do, so it thought that its master would not let it return empty-handed and it therefore remained at the side of the Ark and did not return to its place until **he put forth his hand and took it .. to him –** he had compassion upon it and held it in its hand to warm it until it recovered from its exhaustion. And this comes to teach us that this is how it is appropriate to behave toward a failed messenger who did not bring a response due to a circumstance that is not his fault, that one should nevertheless have compassion upon him …
The Talmud (*Berachos*) relates that R. Nechunya b. Hakana would say: "I (who study Torah) toil and they (who engage in other activities) toil. I toil and receive a reward, and they toil and do not receive a reward." The Chofetz Chaim (beginning of *Bechukosai*) explains that although craftsmen are certainly compensated for their labor, this is only if they succeed in their work, whereas one who toils in the study of Torah is rewarded even if he does not manage to properly understand the subject matter.
The truth is, however, that the question of whether a laborer or messenger who toils in the service of his employer but ultimately fails to accomplish his assigned task due to circumstances beyond his control is nevertheless *halachically* entitled to compensation for his efforts is a complex and nuanced one, a detailed discussion of which is unfortunately beyond the scope of this article (see *Tosefta Bava Metzia* 7:2 and *Bavli Bava Kamma* 116a-b and *Bava Metzia* 76b-77a).

PRESENTED BY
RABBI YITZHAK GROSSMAN, ROSH CHABURAH

KIDS KORNER

Who Am I?

#1 WHO AM I ?

1. I am not nature.
2. I refer to a box.
3. In English I am a place for the Torah.
4. I got stuck in "a rut."

#2 WHO AM I ?

1. I mean confusion.
2. I caused miscommunication.
3. I was bricked.
4. I brought dispersion.

Last Week's Answers
#1 The Letter Beis (I am two, I am with or in, I begin the beginning, I sound like a house.)
#2 BeHaB (Pray for sick children, Two Mondays and a Thursday, Holiday desecration caused me, Some fast for me.)

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