



The Greater Washington Community Kollel

SHABBOS DELIGHTS

TORAH MINUTE

IN MEMORY OF RABBI KALMAN WINTER ZT"L

A Special Message

Having received G-d's instructions for the construction of the Tabernacle and its vessels, Moshe communicates them to the nation and charges them with this monumental undertaking. The commentators ask: Why does the Torah specify here, when Moshe is sharing the details of the Mishkan, that the entire nation was gathered together? In reality, each and every mitzvah that Moshe heard from G-d he subsequently taught to all the people.

Based upon the Ramban's understanding of the purpose of the Mishkan, perhaps we can answer this difficult question. The Ramban teaches us that the intent of the Tabernacle was to eternalize the epic experience of Sinai that accompanied the giving of the Torah. It was at Sinai that the nation experienced G-d's Revelation first-hand. It was at Sinai that G-d's Presence was palpable. And it was at Sinai that the nation attained an unprecedented level of prophecy and clarity. The Mishkan was destined to be a microcosm of Sinai, where G-d's Presence would continue to be manifest. The Torah would be symbolized by the Holy Ark containing the Tablets and, from this sublime place, G-d would speak directly to Moshe.

Thus the Mishkan was, in essence, an enshrinement of the giving of the Torah and its attendant Divine Manifestation. Based on the phrasing of the verse, which describes the people as they reached Sinai in the singular form -- "and *he* [the Nation] encamped there near the mountain [Sinai]" -- the Sages teach us that they were collectively, "like one person, with one heart," united in purpose and mission. This unity was indeed a prerequisite for receiving the Torah, for G-d did not intend to give the Torah to individuals. Only together, as a nation, did we merit the gift of Torah, and only with each other's support are we truly able to fulfill it.

We now understand why the Torah emphasizes that Moshe gathered the people together to charge them with construction of the Mishkan. Only together, united as one, would we be able to accomplish this great task.

On this note, I would like to introduce an inspiring project initiated by the Kollel: We are inaugurating the Jewish Unity Learning - Siyum HaTorah Project. It is our hope, with the participation of each and every one of us, to complete the entire Torah -- Tanach, Mishna, and Talmud -- in three years. Each person, man, woman, and child, is invited to choose a section of the Torah, small or large. With our collective efforts, we will succeed in completing the Torah and, just as our ancestors stood as one at Sinai, we will, in some small measure, eternalize and internalize the grand experience of Sinai and the Mishkan.

To sign up or for more information, please go to gwckollel.org or contact Rabbi Yonatan Zakem at yzakem@gwckollel.org.

Have a wonderful Shabbos!

Rabbi Menachem Winter

TABLE TALK

POINT TO PONDER

On six days work may be done, but the seventh day... a day of complete rest... (35:2)

The Torah preceded the working on the Mishkan with the prohibition to work on Shabbos, to teach us that one may not desecrate Shabbos in order to build the Bais HaMikdash (Rashi).

All seven days of the Miluim, Moshe erected and dismantled the Mishkan, but on the eighth day he erected it, but did not dismantle it (Rashi Naso 7:1).

During the eight days there was a day of Shabbos. How was Moshe allowed to erect the Mishkan on Shabbos?

PARSHA RIDDLE

Which chapter of Tehillim is referenced in this week's Parsha?

Please see next week's issue for the answer.

Last week's riddle: What does our dress on Purim and Moshe have in common?

Answer: We wear masks on Purim, and Moshe wore a mask.

TIMELESS WISDOM

Rav Chizkiyahu Mishkovsky related the following story:

One of my friends has a relative in the States who is an extremely successful businessman. He donates generously to the many Roshei Yeshiva who ask for his support. My friend was shocked to one day meet his relative in Yerushalayim. "Why are you here?" he asked him. "Let me tell you what happened. Hashem has blessed my endeavors and every business venture has turned a profit. One day, Rav Nosson Tzvi Finkel (zt"l) came to me to raise funds for Mir Yeshiva. As he related the many expenses of the yeshiva, he told me that the yeshiva had grown to over two thousand students. In turn, I asked, 'Why is it necessary for the yeshiva to accept more students? Why aren't you happy with what you have?' The Rosh Yeshiva answered as follows. 'Why aren't you happy with the millions of dollars that you have already accumulated? Why do you try to earn more money?' I have realized the wisdom of Rav Nosson Tzvi's words and I have come to apologize."

KIDS KORNER

WHO AM I?

#1 WHO AM I?

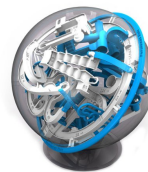
1. I am the mother
2. I clean up after my child
3. I cannot work
4. I am one of the four

#2 WHO AM I?

1. I am for redemption
2. I am for spring
3. I am the first
4. I am the seventh

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

*Win a
Perplexus
Epic!*



Next Raffle
Drawing
March 31st!

Last Issue's Answers

#1 The second set of Luchos: (I caused wealth, I allowed forgetting, I was for Yom Kippur, I am a second)

#2 Bosor v'Cholov: (I am for cooking, I am for enjoying, I am for eating, I am not only for a mother and child)

**Congratulations to
Liam Ratner
and to all those who answered
correctly this week!**

Visit <http://www.gwckollel.org> to submit your answers. Answer as many as you can because each correct answer will entitle you to another raffle ticket and increase your chances of winning.

KOLLEL BULLETIN BOARD

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