



The Greater Washington Community Kollel

SHABBOS DELIGHTS

TORAH MINUTE

IN MEMORY OF RABBI KALMAN WINTER ZT" L

It is an honor to present this week's Torah Minute from our archives. The following was penned by our founder, Rabbi Kalman Winter ZT" L in 2010.

In preparation for the tenth and final plague, the killing of the first born of Egypt, each Jew was enjoined to set aside a lamb for sacrifice. The blood of the lamb, known as the pascal lamb, was mingled with the blood of circumcision that the Jews performed just prior to their exodus from Egypt. These bloods were then placed on the doorpost of each and every Jewish home. When G-d carried out this final plague and came to a Jewish home, observing the blood on the door posts, he "passed over" the home, saving the Jewish people from a similar fate. Hence, the name of our holiday, Pesach, literally meaning, Passover. The significance of the bloods on the doorposts expressed the personal sacrifice of the Jewish Nation. The lamb was the deity of the Egyptians, and with perfect faith, our people took their very lives in hand and defied the Egyptians by slaughtering their G-d. The blood of circumcision was a test of courage to endure the rigors of the physical consequence of such a dangerous procedure. Distinct in nature, these two tests of faith formed the foundation upon which our people, Israel, would merit their redemption.

Each year, as we relive the exodus from Egypt, declaring in a firm voice "in every generation we are obligated to see ourselves going forth from Egypt," we personalize and immortalize that moment with pride and gratitude to G-d. However, for this moment to truly have meaning and purpose, it must be accompanied with resolve and commitment to sacrifice as our forefathers of old. Ours is not a religion of convenience. Only through the meticulous observance of Torah and mitzvos can we forge a truly meaningful relationship and bond with our Creator as did our ancestors in Egypt. This is the message to our children and our children's children on this special night of Pesach. Let not this night pass over without new resolve and impetus to observe our Torah with ever greater devotion and dedication.

Chag Kosher V'Sameach,

Rabbi Kalman Winter

POINT TO PONDER

One does not recite a beracha (al achilas matza) when eating matza any of the other seven days of Pesach, since there is no obligation to eat matza. Rather, if one wants to make Hamotzi he must eat matza, but there is no direct mitzva to eat matza (Magen Avraham 639).

When a person wants to eat bread, he washes his hands and recites a beracha, "al netilas yadain." Even though there is no direct mitzva to wash one's hands, only if one wants to eat bread they must wash the hands. Why is this different than matza during Pesach?

PARSHA RIDDLE

What food item that we abstain from on Rosh Hashana does the Talmud (Arvei Pesachim) say to eat at the Seder?

Please see next week's issue for the answer.

Last week's riddle: Where in this parsha do we learn to be very careful not to cause embarrassment to people?

Answer: The Chatas was brought in the same place in the Bais HaMikdash as the Olah, so it would not be obvious who sinned and was bringing a chatas, and who was bringing a voluntary olah.

HATORAH V'HAMITZVAH

Halacha Insights from the Parsha

The portion of *Parshas Bo* read on the first day of *Pesach* describes the first night of *Pesach* as "leil shimurim" - a night that is "watched" or "guarded" (Exodus 12:42). This is the basis for the custom to leave house or bedroom doors unlocked, or at least less securely locked than usual, on this night. We thus demonstrate either our anticipation of our ultimate redemption on this night - in case the Prophet Elijah (herald of the redemption) arrives, we wish to be prepared to sally forth toward him without delay (*Sefer Ha'Manhig hilchos Pesach* #2), or our reliance upon special Divine protection operative on this night (*Maharil hilchos Pesach* [Seder Leil Sheni shel Pesach], and cf. *Or Zarua* 2:234). The custom should not be followed where the risk of danger, such as theft, is high (*Magen Avraham* end of *siman* 481; *Shulchan Aruch Harav* and *Chok Yaakov* end of *siman* 480).

Various contemporary *halachists* discuss the (actual or hypothetical) case of a bailee who did follow this custom, presumably due to his assessment of the risk as low, but nevertheless suffered the consequent theft of the bailment. Some hold the bailee liable for the theft, as the promise of Divine protection cannot affect one's responsibilities to one's fellow man, while others disagree, arguing that insofar as the custom of leaving doors unlocked is widespread, we apply the general rule that absent an express stipulation to the contrary, the level of care required of a bailee is determined by prevailing custom (see *Ha'Ichud Be'Chidud*, *Parshas Metzora* 5771, #164 and *Watching the Watched*, *The Vues Online*, Apr. 1 2014 for detailed analyses of the question, including numerous additional considerations).

Presented by Rabbi Yitzhak Grossman, Rosh Chaburah

KIDS KORNER

WHO AM I?

#1 WHO AM I?

1. I am for Purim
2. I am for Pesach
3. I am not to kvetch
4. I make you happy

#2 WHO AM I?

1. I make the new old
2. I make you count
3. I am a korban
4. I am not "saying"

Please see next week's issue for the answers

Last Issue's Answers

#1 Korban Shelamim (I can be from a korban Pesach, I am also for the owner, I can be for thanksgiving, Peace)

#2 Mizbeyach (I have corners, I have pyres for fires, The General used me for asylum, The Angel will try to save himself with me)

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!

Raffle Winner will be
Announced After Pesach!

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.

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The Greater Washington Community Kollel wishes our friends, supporters, and the entire community a wonderful and joyous Pesach! For meaningful and inspiring Pesach messages from the Kollel Scholars, view the videos at www.gwckollel.org/PesachVideos.php