



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 2011.***

This week's Torah reading of Ki Sisa features the national transgression of the Golden Calf. The Jewish nation at its most glorious moment, the receiving of the Torah at Sinai from G-d, violates the most ignoble of all transgressions - idolatry. How are we to understand that a people called the "Dor Daya" - the Generation of Knowledge, who beheld all the miracles in Egypt and safely crossed the Sea into a barren wilderness, should lose its faith in the One G-d? It begs understanding.

The Torah commentators say that the Torah records that the Jews miscalculated when Moshe was to reappear to them from his forty days on high. There ensued great fear and panic in the Jewish camp that Moshe had died. Striving to regain their footing and searching for another intermediary as Moshe who would serve as a leader and contact between G-d and His people, they divined means and ways mystically to create this Golden Calf. Never did they intend to replace G-d, rather it was an effort to find a substitution for their leader, Moshe. In fact, there were efforts made that Aharon himself should assume the leadership of his brother, Moshe.

Given that their intention was not idolatrous, wherein is to be found their transgression? The answer lies in the fact that with all their best intentions, they failed to act with due deliberation and faith. Tested as they were, they should never have undertaken such an initiative without the directive and approval of the Almighty Himself.

This is a historical message for all future generations that our good intentions do not give license to improvise and change. There have been many golden calves with their innovations throughout our long history. All have failed the test of time. Our Torah is a living Torah, one that speaks for all generations. Moshe did reappear, our leader returned and our glory reinstated. All that grief and angst of the Golden Calf was but for naught. Ours is but to do, not to alter and embellish, even with the best of intentions.

*Shabbat Shalom,*

*Rabbi Kalman Winter*

## TABLE TALK

### POINT TO PONDER

*Hashem spoke to Moshe, "Go, descend – for your people have made for themselves a molten calf..." (32:7-8)*

*Yehoshua heard the sound of people shouting, and he said to Moshe, "The sound of battle is in the camp." Moshe said, "Not a sound of shouting strength nor a sound of shouting weakness; a sound of distress do I hear" (32:17-18).*

As Moshe had been told what was happening in the camp, why was he so vague with Yehoshua? Seemingly, he should have told him what was going on.

### PARSHA RIDDLE

**What does our dress on Purim and Moshe have in common?**

Please see next week's issue for the answer.

**Last week's riddle: Which seforim are named for parts of the *bigdei kehuna*?**

**Answer:** There are many: 1) Avnei Miluim 2) Urim V'Tumim 3) Kraisi U'plaisee, 4) Tabaas HaChoshen 5) Ketzos Hachoshen, and there are more.

## TIMELESS WISDOM

***The people saw that Moshe had delayed in descending the mountain... (41:1)***

*When Moshe ascended, he told Bnai Yisrael that he would be back in forty days. They assumed that the day of his ascent was included in the count. Now that forty days had passed and Moshe had not come down, they feared they had lost their leader... (Rashi)*

The Ben Ish Chai related the following:

Rav Chaim Vital learned the following posuk, "To make a weight for the atmosphere," (Tehilim 26:11), and concluded that, if the posuk says that there is a weight for the atmosphere, there must be one. The scientists at the time laughed at him, reasoning that if the atmosphere had weight, people would be weighed down and would not be able to walk standing straight.

Science, however, has now recognized that there is a weight to the atmosphere, and its density changes depending on the temperature. And using this knowledge there has been much advance in aviation. Rav Chaim Vital knew to trust the Torah. Torah is true. It may, however, take us time to realize and understand that which the Torah is teaching.

## KIDS KORNER

### WHO AM I?

#### #1 WHO AM I?

1. I caused wealth
2. I allowed forgetting
3. I was for Yom Kippur
4. I am a second

#### #2 WHO AM I?

1. I am for cooking
2. I am for enjoying
3. I am for eating
4. I am not only for a mother and child

#### Last Issue's Answers

**#1 Choshen:** (I stopped a sin, I would answer questions, I was enlightening, I was stone faced)

**#2 Mitzvos of Purim:** (Eat, Drink, Listen, Give)

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 31<sup>st</sup>!*

**Congratulations to  
*Eli Herman*  
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.

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