



The Greater Washington Community Kollel

SHABBOS DELIGHTS

TORAH MINUTE

IN MEMORY OF RABBI KALMAN WINTER ZT"L

Rabbi Moshe Feinstein states that, in most instances, when the Torah introduces a law or mitzvah, it does so with the word “*Vayedaber*” - “And He spoke.” This is because the word connotes strength and potency, characteristics reflecting the nature of *mitzvos* (see *Talmud Makkos* 11a). If so, when introducing the special laws of sanctity incumbent on the *Kohanim* (priests), why does the Torah use the word “*Vayomer*” - “And He said” - a word more associated with softness and gentleness?

Rabbi Feinstein answers that the special and additional laws of sanctity governing the *Kohanim* were rooted in their primary mission to be teachers of G-d’s word to the Nation. This differs with the commonly held notion that the primary mission of the priests, and their concomitant laws of sanctity, were anchored in the Temple service. This unique and cherished mantle as the Nation’s teachers and role models required the *Kohanim* to feel honored and fortunate in their mission. Therefore, in charging the *Kohanim* in their sacred undertaking, the *Torah* uses the word “*Vayomer*,” communicating that their calling is not one of burden and onus, but of privilege and honor.

I am reminded of a story that a congregant shared with me regarding a conversation he had with my father, Rabbi Kalman Winter zt”l. The congregant related to my father that he had heard that his own Rebbe would sometimes dissuade those who were thinking of becoming pulpit Rabbis. “Avoid the Rabbinate,” the person told his students. “It is beset with great challenge and adversity.” Taken aback by the sentiment expressed, my father straightened himself and looked the congregant in the eye. “With all due respect, I disagree. It is an honor and privilege to serve G-d’s children and to teach them.”

May we all feel the great privilege it is to teach, inspire, or lend a hand in support and encouragement to G-d’s beloved children.

Have a wonderful Shabbos!

Rabbi Menachem Winter

POINT TO PONDER

And I should be sanctified amongst Bnei Yisrael (22:32).

One who is going to be killed sanctifying Hashem's Name should recite the following beracha "... and You commanded us to sanctify His Name publicly" (Shela os aleph).

One is not allowed to recite a beracha on tragic occurrences (Rashba responsa 18).

Wouldn't the murder of a Jew be considered a tragic occurrence, and a beracha should not be recited?

What do Shavuot and the last day of Sukkot have in common?

Please see next week's issue for the answer.

Last week's riddle: How did the Cheit Ha'Egel / sin of the golden calf determine the garments for the Kohen Gadol?

Answer: The Kohen Gadol was not allowed to enter the Kodosh HaKodoshim with clothes made of gold because of its use in the sin of the golden calf.

Text

HATORAH V'HAMITZVAH

Halacha Insights from the Parsha

Parshas Emor begins with an extensive discussion of various positive and negative commandments regulating the conduct of *Kohanim* (priestly descendants of Aharon) and the nation's treatment of them. In contemporary times, while individuals and families do have traditions identifying them as *Kohanim*, there is no authoritative genealogical documentation verifying this. Some authorities therefore classify them as "presumptive" rather than "definite" *Kohanim*, and there has been lively, ongoing debate over the past millennium over whether such *Kohanim* must follow all of the stringencies, and are entitled to all of the privileges, of authenticated *Kohanim*. Following are some of the contexts of these debates:

- *Kohanim* are prohibited from entering into certain marital unions; some authorities have allowed certain leniencies with regard to contemporary *Kohanim*, while others have staunchly rejected this position (see *Ba'er Hetev* even *ha'ezer* s.k.2; *Pis'chei Teshuvah* s.k. 3).
- We are required to grant *Kohanim* certain forms of precedence; some authorities justify the prevailing disregard of this injunction by invoking genealogical uncertainty (*Yefeh Mareh*, *Berachos* end of 8:2; *Magen Avraham siman* 201 s.k. 4).
- The first-born son of a mother who is not the daughter of a *Kohen* or *Levi*, and whose father is neither a *Kohen* nor a *Levi*, must be redeemed from a *Kohen* by the payment of five *selaim* (a type of silver coin). There is an opinion that urges that a contemporary *Kohen* who receives such a payment should voluntarily return it after accepting it for the sake of the ritual; that the ceremony be repeated with as many different *Kohanim* as possible; and that even the son of the daughter of a *Kohen* or *Levi* should be redeemed, all due to the unreliability of our genealogical traditions (*She'elas Ya'avetz siman* 155).

Presented by Rabbi Yitzhak Grossman, Rosh Chabura

KIDS KORNER

WHO AM I?

#1 WHO AM I?

1. Of me there are three
2. I am referenced by Bilaam's donkey
3. I make you walk
4. I am a good day

#2 WHO AM I?

1. I am prohibited for the Kohen
2. I force you away from holiness
3. I am transmitted
4. I could be a child, father or grandfather

Please see next week's issue for the answers

Last Issue's Answers:

- #1 The two se'irim (goats) that were brought on Yom Kippur** (We were identical, Our ends are different, Our purpose is similar, We caused drawings)
- #2 The person who walked the se'ir to the cliffs** (I was designated, For me there are sukkos, For me there was food on Yom Kippur, I put things over the edge)

Congratulations to

Eyal Fogel

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.

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

Win a
Stomp
Rocket
Ultra



Next Raffle
Drawing
June 2nd!

KOLLEL BULLETIN BOARD



The Kollel's new audio page is now up and running, with over one hundred classes from the Kollel Scholars and guest lecturers! Check it out at audio.gwckollel.org!