



Greater Washington Community Kollel SHABBOS DELIGHTS

TORAH MINUTE

IN MEMORY OF RABBI KALMAN WINTER ZT"l

The Taste of Teshuva

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Director of Kollel Alumni

As Yom Kippur draws near, Jews around the world will be spending the final hours prior to this holy day engaged in a special and unique mitzvah. According to our sages, there is a biblical commandment to partake in a festive, holiday repast prior to the onset of Yom Kippur. This mitzvah is more than just a preparation for the subsequent twenty four hour period of fasting. The Talmud (Brachos 8b) comments that this meal is of such significance that one who eats on the ninth day of Tishrei is considered on some level as if he or she fasted both that day *and* the next day, Yom Kippur! Why is eating on the eve of Yom Kippur such an integral part of our Yom Kippur observance?

Rabbi Yonasson Eibeshitz explains that this feast is a symbolic first step in the *teshuva* (repentance) process. The earliest sin that was introduced to the world occurred when Adam ate from the tree of knowledge in the Garden of Eden. Once Adam committed this sin, the ability of future generations to sin became easier. The divine word was devalued, which entered the psyche of mankind as a whole. Therefore, at the very root of every future misdeed rests that first sin of Adam. The *teshuva* process that we embark on must also incorporate atonement for that sin. By beginning Yom Kippur with a meal invested with sanctity, we take a necessary first step toward complete *teshuva*. Blessings on the food items are recited with focus, and words of Torah are shared. We turn toward our children and beseech Hashem to give them the strength, commitment, and divine assistance to serve Him with a pure heart. This demonstrates our sincere desire to restore the close relationship with Hashem, just as it was prior to Adam's sin. It is with this recognition that we reflect on our own relationships with Hashem and our fellow man and chart a course toward meaningful and lasting repentance.

Wishing you a Gmar Chasima Tova.

TABLE TALK

POINT TO PONDER

He shall atone for himself, for his household, and for the entire congregation of Israel. (Acharei Mos 16:7)

The Kohen Gadol is the representative of the Jewish people on Yom Kippur. Why does he first atone for himself and then his household, and only at the end for the nation? Shouldn't they be first and foremost on his mind? Why does the Torah obligate him to place his personal atonement as the first thing on his mind?

PARSHA RIDDLE

What similarity is there between Yom Kippur and Asara B'Teves?

Please see next week's issue for the answer.

Last week's riddle:

Give ear, O Heavens and I will speak (Ha'azinu 32:1).

Where is there a hint to the 613 mitzvos in this posuk?

Answer: The words "hashomaim v'adabeira / O Heavens and I will speak" equal 613.

HATORAH V'HAMITZVAH

HALACHA INSIGHTS FROM THE PARSHA

The Talmud (Brachos 8b) derives from a verse in parshas Emor that there is a mitzvah for a person to eat on the ninth of Tishrei, the eve of Yom Kippur. Rabbi Akiva Eiger (Shut. MK 16) wonders whether this obligation applies to women since they are generally exempt from time-bound positive commandments. He does not reach a decision on the question and concludes that it needs further investigation when time allows.

His grandson, the Ksav Sofer (OC 112), addresses this question as well and rules that women are indeed equally obligated to eat on the eve of Yom Kippur. He cites two reasons for this: 1. Since the obligation to eat is actually derived from a verse (Vayikra 23:32) instructing one to afflict oneself, one can deduce that whoever is obligated in the afflictions of Yom Kippur, is obligated to eat on the eve of Yom Kippur. 2. Rashi (Brachos 8b and Yoma 81b) explains that the reason one is obligated to eat on the eve of Yom Kippur is to ensure that one is able to fast on Yom Kippur. It follows, therefore, that women who are equally obligated to fast on Yom Kippur, should also be obligated to properly prepare for Yom Kippur by eating the day before.

Rabbi Baruch Halevy Epstein (Torah Temimah Vayikra ibid.) comes to the same conclusion as the Ksav Sofer, but from a diametrically opposite line of reasoning. Based on a discussion in Tractate Taanis (27b) that implies that it is more difficult to fast after a day of feasting, Rabbi Epstein suggests that the obligation to eat on the eve of Yom Kippur is actually to make the fast more challenging! (This is why the Torah expresses the obligation as afflicting oneself.) He concludes, based on this, that because women are equally obligated to fast on Yom Kippur, they should be equally obligated to make the fast more difficult by feasting on the eve of Yom Kippur.

PRESENTED BY RABBI HILLEL SHAPS

KIDS KORNER

WHO AM I?

#1 WHO AM I?

1. I make you bend.
2. I make you bang.
3. I am for the mouth.
4. I am for the heart.

#2 WHO AM I?

1. Most days I am three times.
2. Some days I am four times.
3. This Shabbos I am five times.
4. My name is one off.

Last Week's Answers:

#1 The Letter ה (I am the shortest word in the Torah; I was special for Avraham and Sarah; I refer to Hashem; I have a ledge for those who do teshuva.)

#2 Shofar (I do not drive you; I move you; I remind you of Akeidas Yitzchak; I am for sitting and standing.)

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

**Win a
SNAP CIRCUITS
ARCADE SET**



*Congratulations to Betzael Komarow
and others for answering last week's questions correctly!*

Visit gwckollel.org to submit your answers.

**Answer as many as you can.
Each correct answer will entitle you
to another raffle ticket and increase
your chances of winning!**

**THE NEXT
RAFFLE WILL BE
OCTOBER 17TH.**

KOLLEL BULLETIN BOARD

*Greater Washington Community Kollel wishes all of its friends, supporters,
Participants, and the entire community a meaningful Yom Kippur!*

The Kollel Intersession begins Sunday, October 1.

Please join us for the Fall Semester, beginning Sunday, October 22!