



Perushei Purim Annually

Agudah Yeshiva of America

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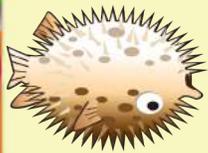
פרשה: תצוה - מפתיר: זכור - (דברים כה:יז-יט) הפטרה: ויאמר שמואל... (שמואל א טו:א-לד)
משנכנס אדר מרדים בשמחה
דף יומי: בבא בתרא מ"ח מצות עשה: 4 מצות לא תעשה: 3

~~Weekly~~

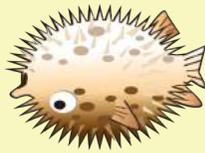
*A freilichin...
Something...*

Perushei Purim

פורים is a time of great joy and it is also a time when people do not take things quite as seriously as they do the rest of the year. It is with this in mind that there used to be a **מסורה** (מורה מפי מורה) for the young פזמון to sing a complex תנוקות של בית רבן on this festive day:



Old Mother Hubbard
Went to the cupboard
To give her poor dog a bone;
When she got there,
The cupboard was bare,
And so the poor dog had none.



פזמון needs באור. It is obvious that it has great depth. The טעמי ומנהגי שושן asks a few perplexing questions, and with his answers he opens up a whole new insight into this פזמון:

(1) First of all: Why is the old lady referred to as an "old mother" in this פזמון? (2) What was the **מחבר** alluding to when he called the "old mother" by the name **האבורד**? (3) Why did the "old mother" go to an empty cupboard? Was she unaware what was inside her own cupboard? (5) Which "old mother" keeps bones inside her cupboard? (6) The word cupboard is spelled "cup-board" but pronounced "cub-bird"; why?

In his introduction, the אלתער שיד explains how this פזמון discusses the turning point of the מגלה. The words **בלילה ההוא נדה** and **שנת הפלד**, that night's sleep eluded the king, are read more loudly by

the **בעל קורא** because this is the turning point of the מגלה. This night of miracles was the night of **ליל פסח**, which is the same גימטריה as **האבורד** (218). We also know that **אחשורוש** had a troubling dream that night that kept waking him up. He saw **המן** plotting to overthrow him and seeking to become king. The **האבורד** גימטריה is also equivalent to **יהי** **המלך המן**.

הצילה called **אחשורוש** a **קלב** when she said: **מיד ... מיד** **הצילה** **קלב** **אחשורוש** had a constant fear that there was a "skeleton in the closet" about the lineage of **אסתר**. **אסתר** is lovingly described as the "old mother" and she chose her moment to show **אחשורוש** that she came from royal family and there were **no bones in the closet**.

The **בעל המחבר** cleverly used the word "cupboard" instead of "closet" and alluded to an eternal message with another dream that also happened on **ליל פסח**: the dreams of the **שר האופים** and the **שר המשקים**. The **שר המשקים** held a **cup** and the **שר האופים** had **birds** eating from his basket. **הצדיק יוסף** and **מרדכי** are both called **הצדיק**; they saved their Jewish brothers, and in both cases, the sinner was hanged! The entire miracle of the **מגלה** hinged on **שכל האומר דבר בשם** (פרקי אבות ו:ו), *quoting in the name of the right person*. Both **מרדכי** and **יוסף** were honored only because they were given the credit that was due.

Adapted from: Shoe Shine Serenades (with kind permission from the Purim Rebbe שליט"א)

פירי המלך אפסי ת...

Remember: **A wine test ... Rescue me ... my essence [נפשתי] from the hands of the dog.**



הצילה ... מיד קלב יחידתי (תהלים כב:כא). **פירי המלך** as she purposely walked towards **אחשורוש**'s inner chamber, she refers to **אחשורוש** as a **קלב**, dog. Tradition has it that the bull dog was crowned **אחשורוש**. There are many theories as to why the bull dog represented **אחשורוש**. One possibility is that in a master-dog look alike contest, the bull dog was a clear winner. Other commentators hypothesize that **אחשורוש** was known as a bully and this was the most appropriate breed. Recently, yet another answer was brought to light from the **מגלה**: it was **הפר**. The translation of פר is bull.

Midrasheihai Megil

A major **דג-פיר** fight engulfed the **המנות** in both **אראץ** and **אראץ**: How many **דג-פיר** do you need for a **מזל אדר** sign? Can you just use one **דג-פיר**? Since one can be **קריאת שמע** in any language, surely one can be **מזל אדר** sign with one **דג-פיר**? Or, if one is **מחמיר** and uses two **דג-פיר** on the sign, is he **יוצא**, since **בדיעבד** this is really 4 fish? Even though it is cold-water fish, they agreed to a **פשר**, **warm water solution**, and paskened **קלב-דג**, take two half **דג-פיר**!



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לעיני רי ישראל בן אברהם ז"ל
לעיני הרי ישעיהו דוב ע"ה בן יבלחטי"א יצחק צבי נ"י

Living with the Torah

Around the World in 80 Seconds or Less

... הוא אֲחִישָׁרוּשׁ הַמֶּלֶךְ מֵהוּדוּ וְעַד כּוּשׁ שְׁבַע וְעֶשְׂרִים וּמֵאָה מְדִינָה... (מְגִלָּת אֶסְתֵּר א: א)

... the אֲחִישָׁרוּשׁ who reigned from Hodu to Kush over 127 provinces...

The מְדַרְשׁ רַבָּה (ג: נח) explains that אֶסְתֵּר was once giving a complicated שְׁעוֹר and some of the תַּלְמִידִים were falling asleep. In an attempt to awaken the תַּלְמִידִים and get their attention, he changed the topic of the שְׁעוֹר and asked them, "Why was it seen fit that אֶסְתֵּר should rule over 127 provinces? Because thus said ד': Let the daughter of שְׁרָה who lived 127 years come and reign over 127 provinces."

Why would these words alert the sleepy students more than the topic of the day? אֶסְתֵּר wanted to impress upon his תַּלְמִידִים the importance of time and the importance of using it. It was because שְׁרָה's 127 years were perfect and completely sin-free. Each her granddaughter another person; each minute, a family; each hour, a farm; each day, a village; each year, a province. Had שְׁרָה idled away her time, אֶסְתֵּר's kingdom would have been diminished.

Time is too precious to waste. שְׁרָה's time well spent was rewarded during אֶסְתֵּר's reign. Each of us, too, is presented with the fleeting gift of time — and the mission of utilizing it fully and well. Who can say what the rewards will be for each minute well spent, or the penalty for each minute wasted?

As a memory aid to help you quickly remember the story of the מְגִלָּה after you have reached ... עַד דְּלֹא יָדַע, we found an abridged version and the עֲקוֹר הַלְכָה of פּוֹרִים with an allusion to some of the 127 provinces.

King אֲחִישָׁרוּשׁ was Finnish with his disobedient wife, Queen וְשִׁתִּי. "You Congo now!" he ordered her. After she had Ghana way, the king's messengers went Roman the land to find a new queen. And India end. the beautiful

אֶסְתֵּר won the crown. Meanwhile, מְרַדְכִי sat outside the palace, where the Chile מְרַדְכִי would Czech up on him daily.

"I Haiti you because you refuse to bow to me!" מְרַדְכִי scolded מְרַדְכִי. "USA very stubborn man. You Jews are such Bahamas! If you keep this up, Denmark my words! I will have all your people killed!"

"Just Kuwait and see, you Turkey!" replied מְרַדְכִי. מְרַדְכִי went into mourning and tore his clothes — a custom known as Korea. He urged אֶסְתֵּר to plead with the king. The Jews fasted for three days and grew very Hungary.

אֶסְתֵּר approached the king and asked, "Kenya Belize come to a banquet I've prepared for you and הַמֶּן?" At the feast, she invited her guests to a second banquet to eat Samoa. The king asked, "אֶסְתֵּר, why Jamaica big meal like this? Just tell me what you want. Unto half my United Kingdom will I give you."

אֶסְתֵּר replied, "Spain full for me to say this, but הַמֶּן is Russian to kill my people."

הַמֶּן's loud Wales could be heard as he carried Honduran this scene. "Oman!" הַמֶּן cried bitterly.

"Iraq my brains in an effort to destroy the Jews. But that sneaky מְרַדְכִי — Egypt me!"

הַמֶּן and his ten sons were hanged and went immediately to the Netherlands. And to Sweden the deal, the Jews were allowed to Polish off the rest of their foes as well.

"You lost your enemies and Uganda friend," the king smiled.

And that is why the פּוֹרִים story Israeli a miracle. G-d decided to China light on His chosen people.

So now, let's celebrate! Forget all your Syria's business and just be happy! Serb up some wine and Taiwan on! Happy פּוֹרִים!

Adapted from: **Memory Aids for the Intoxicated** (with kind permission from the Purim Gabbai)

Chofetz Chaim Moment

ספר ח"ח הלכות רכילות כלל? !? סעיף 1!

*, two royal servants of King אֲחִישָׁרוּשׁ, stood near the palace gates conspiring to assassinate the king. מְרַדְכִי, a member, was standing nearby. Unaware that מְרַדְכִי was fluent in all of the 70 languages, בְּגָתוֹ and תָּרַשׁ spoke freely in their native tongue. As a loyal servant of the king, מְרַדְכִי reported the information he overheard to אֶסְתֵּר who, in turn, reported the matter to the king in מְרַדְכִי's name. Upon verification of the report, בְּגָתוֹ and תָּרַשׁ were hanged.

Why was מְרַדְכִי required to tell אֶסְתֵּר about the plot of בְּגָתוֹ and תָּרַשׁ?

*Stories adapted from Guard Your Tongue, A Daily Companion, A Lesson a Day and various real-life situations.

Answer: We have a rule: אֶסְתֵּר שָׂמְרָה שֶׁמִּשְׁמֵרָהּ אֶת מִלְּפִי אֶסְתֵּר וְעַד כּוּשׁ שְׁבַע וְעֶשְׂרִים וּמֵאָה מְדִינָה... and תָּרַשׁ to kill the king would have been compromised. אֶסְתֵּר would take away from the first שְׁמֵרָהּ, if שְׁמֵרָהּ would have allowed and second שְׁמֵרָהּ the added שְׁמֵרָהּ. This is because the added שְׁמֵרָהּ would have been compromised.

Questions of the week

1. אֶסְתֵּר ruled over 127 provinces. שְׁרָה lived for 127 years and אֶסְתֵּר uses the word הַזֶּה three times.
2. The אֶרֶץ יִשְׂרָאֵל and אֶרֶץ יִשְׂרָאֵל was exiled from אֶרֶץ יִשְׂרָאֵל three times, alluding to the three times that מְרַדְכִי was exiled from אֶרֶץ יִשְׂרָאֵל and he returned. This showed his tremendous תְּבִיבוֹת for אֶרֶץ יִשְׂרָאֵל.

1. How many times was אֶסְתֵּר exiled from אֶרֶץ יִשְׂרָאֵל?
2. What is the connection between אֶרֶץ יִשְׂרָאֵל and the powerful kingdom of אֶרֶץ יִשְׂרָאֵל?
3. How many of the 26 "mistakes" can you find in this week's issue?

Halacha Corner

- At night, the proper time for קְרִיאַת מְגִלָּה is after צֵאת הַחֹמֶה (sunrise) until שְׁקִיעַת הַחֹמֶה (sunset). עֲלוֹת הַשָּׁחַר (when three stars are visible) until הַצֵּאת הַחֹמֶה (dawn). During the day, the מְגִלָּה may be read from הַצֵּאת הַחֹמֶה.
- Although there is an עֵינָנוּ to eat a small סְעוּדָה at night, one may not drink anything that is מִשְׁכָּר. The main חִיּוּב is at the daytime סְעוּדָה.

*Since we only discuss הלכות 1-3, it is important to consider these הלכות in the context of the bigger picture. Use them as a starting point for further in-depth study.

Focus on שמן

Dear רבני,
I found an interesting שאלה, question, in the collections of the famous פורים (כל בו לפורים) (שאלה). רבני, this question is an ענין חמור, on the subject of drink, and definitely one that involves דברים, something that keeps you standing while the world goes round, so I have added a drop or two of my own additions for clarity.

"There was a great person (Ed. note: most probably he means great in נראות שמים) who lived in our city who was known as the town שכור. He was a true מכירין אותו בכוסו, you could recognize him by what he drank (Ed. note: most probably this means he could hold down his drink). It goes without saying to those who are wise that he could not fulfill his obligation of עד דלא by drinking more than his usual amount. After each drink he would give himself the "Purimlizer Prize test." In one breath he would "shmeck" the differences between each type of wine, the year it was harvested, the amount of chalk and rose taste in the wine, and of course the differences between ארוך המן and ברוך מרדכי. He never reached his

obligation of עד דלא נדע. עד דלא נדע, ברוב חשקו, with his great desire (Ed. note: most probably this means his love for this מצנה), he tried to at least be יוצא the שיטת רמ"א and go to sleep, but sleep just diluted him. He found it impossible to count the sheep, since מרוב צערו this was a בדיעבד situation and many sheep came up as double. Each time this happened, he was forced to begin trying to start falling asleep again. פורים ended and he never reached his obligation of עד דלא נדע. After פורים, this person came to me. He was crying. He needed to do תשובה for his great sin. He fell down at my feet and begged me to find a תשובה fitting for such a sin.

"I admit," says the בעל פרידא, "that this a יין תשובה, גדול!"
My רבני, you taught me the תורה answer. The most important part of every מצנה is the preparation. The מצנה of עד דלא נדע is a good example. If a person prepares and reserves his drinking only for the day of פורים then he can enjoy נדע according to all שיטות!

תלמיד Your, בדידות,

A letter from a תלמיד based on interviews

Understanding דא

Remember ... זכור

An edited selection of יזרות לפרשת זכור — Part I

Remember עשו, who caused אברהם to die early before עשו openly murdered, stole and committed adultery. עשו frightened אברהם with his bad behavior and stole five years from אברהם's life.

Remember the one who laughed at יעקב for being kind to his bereaved father, יצחק, who hated his brother for showing the last kindness to אברהם, his grandfather. עשו acted like someone who cannot allow a kindness to be performed between friends.

Remember the one whose ear does not like to hear anything about תבא, who threw away the birthright for a cup that is drunk by mourners. עשו openly threw away the yoke of די, and he even tried to hide the fact that he ever had a בריה.

This Week in History

14 years of events recorded in the מגלה by month & year:

אחשורוש ascends the Persian throne	3392
אחשורוש's party lasting 180 days	3395
אחשורוש's palace taken to אסתר	טבת	3399
המן casts lots	ניסן	3404
1 st decrees dispatched by המן	ניסן	3404
3-day fast ordered by אסתר	14-16 ניסן	3404
המן's execution by hanging	16 ניסן	3404
2 nd decree reversing the 1 st	23 סיון	3404
המן's tens sons executed	13 אדר	3405
Jews successfully fight back	13 אדר	3405
Per אסתר's request, שושן has a repeat hanging / further fighting; there are celebrations in all the other provinces	14 אדר	3405
Extra celebrations in שושן	15 אדר	3405
The מגלה is recorded; פורים is established forever, including the משיח after זמן	3406

Scholarly שמווזיס

The פורים Rebbe was dealing with a difficult issue. How could he explain to King אחשורוש how the story of אסתר that was written in his private historical files became known to the entire world? He came up with a plan. He spoke to Vicky, the king's gardener, to "innocently" decorate the king's office with leek plants. In his הקמה he spoke to King אחשורוש in a language only understood by a head of state. He pointed to the plant pots and explained to the King that he was simply having a "Vicky's leek" problem.

Source: Stretched by a Story (without permission from SmartScroll)

Shmoozies

