

LUBAVITCH OF N. C.

Thoughts From The Lubavitcher Rebbe

Purim and the Jewish Woman

By Rabbi Yossi Groner

The prime architect behind the miracle of Purim, when the Jews in the 127 countries under King Achashverosh's dominion were saved from Haman's evil designs, was Esther. Risking her life for her people, she braved the king's anger and entreated him to have pity on her people. As the Megillah (scroll of Esther) records, she was eminently successful.

Esther's preeminent role is recognized in the very name of Megillah. It is not called the "Scroll of Mordechai" or the "Scroll of Mordechai and Esther." It is called simply "Scroll of Esther."

A question arises to this kind of recognition. The fact that Esther was the one who actually moved the king to grant relief to the Jews is indisputable. Yet Mordechai also played a role in the salvation. Indeed the Megillah testifies that he was the dominant force behind Esther, not only in her life in general, but also in the efforts to avert the danger from Jewry. Should not the Megillah be named after both participants in the salvation — Esther and Mordechai?

Mordechai, according to a Chassidic philosophy, represents Torah, as our sages say that Mordechai in his generation was equal to Moshe in his generation. Esther represented the Jewish people, this is why she was also called Haddash-Myrtle which represents the Jewish people.

Torah, in its own right, stands on a higher level than the Jewish people. However, once their qualities have been revealed through the medium of Torah, the Jew's innate superiority blazes forth, and then reaches higher than the Torah.

In slightly different words: Jewry, the Baal Shem Tov said, may be compared to a land full of precious things. Every Jew is possessed of the most lofty qualities and virtues; by some the treasures

are buried deep within them, and much work is needed to bring them to light — just as one must dig deep to obtain the precious metals and gems in the earth.

The same is true of Mordechai and Esther as individuals. Mordechai, it is true, had to persuade Esther to do her part in removing the decree against the Jews. But Mordechai did not need to effect any basic change in Esther, to make a new Esther. All he had to do, was to reveal her innate qualities, to allow her real self come to fore, and from there she went on her mission with her own strength, impelled by her own conviction.

It was Esther who told Mordechai, "Go, gather all the Jews to be found in Shushan, and fast for me." And it was Esther who convinced the Sages to include the Megillah as one of the sacred writings.

Because the miracle came about through Esther, through her own self and qualities, and those qualities were infinitely superior to Mordechai's, the Megillah is named solely after her.

The purpose of reading the Megillah today, is to learn how one should act today. The lesson we learn from the above is the greatness of a Jewish woman.

Every woman is the mainstay of her home, who sets the tone and spirit of the entire household. In particular, it is the woman who bears the responsibility of rearing the children in the traditions of Torah and Judaism, ensuring that in every aspect of life they live as Torah Jews.

In fact when the Megillah refers to the Torah, it uses the word "Orah" the feminine tense of "Or" which means light. The feminine part of the Torah refers to the oral part of Torah. And it was through the steadfast commitment of the Jews even to this part of Torah, that they were saved in the miraculous manner through Queen Esther.

Moshe Yess Brings His Music To Charlotte In Honor of Maimonides

The Charlotte Jewish community will once again experience the music and humor of Moshe Yess. Moshe, who was once part of the Megama duo, composed songs like "My Zaydie" and "I've Got the What Page in the Prayer Book Blues." He now does a one man show and is better than ever before.

Moshe's long career in music, working on both coasts (N.Y. and L.A.) has enabled him to write many songs of varying styles. His recently released albums, featuring folk music and Jewish country western songs, are best sellers in the United States and Israel. Moshe has performed in every major city in the United States and Canada, attracting large audiences of young and old.



Moshe Yess

This event is in conjunction with a special Maimonides celebration hosted by Lubavitch of North Carolina, and will be held Sunday, March 29, 7:30 p.m. at Shalom Park in

Gorelick Hall. The program will feature middle eastern foods like Falafel and Israeli delicacies, honoring the region in which Maimonides lived.

This winter marks the third conclusion of the study of Maimonides' great work "Mishna Torah." This study began three years ago at the initiative of the Lubavitcher Rebbe as a tribute to the Rambam (Maimonides) on the occasion of 850 years of his birthday. Jewish communities the world over are celebrating this special anniversary of this great Jewish leader.

Tickets are \$7.50 for adults and \$3.50 for children. The price includes entertainment and as much food as you can eat. For more information, please call Lubavitch of North Carolina, 366-3984.

Preschoolers Learn About Winter Holidays

Students at the Lubavitch pre-school were busy studying about winter and its holidays. Tu B'shvat of course has a special place in the heart of young children since they share many similarities with young saplings. The Torah teaches that a person is like a tree in the field, and both the child and the tree must have delicate and special care in order to be raised properly.

The children learned how to plant trees and even created their own forest as part of a Tu B'shvat arts and crafts project. They also made holiday fruit baskets and discovered the special fruits which are the pride of the land of Israel.

Winter brought a surprise snow storm to Charlotte which kept the children from school. However, the children used the opportunity to learn about the clothes we wear in winter. Fern Sanderson did a cut-out project with the children. Using old magazines the children searched for photos of people dressed in winter garments and cut the photos out and made a winter display

in the classroom. They also had a summer cut-out project so they could learn the difference between winter and summer attire.

Another winter holiday is the tenth of Teveth, although it is a sad one it is nevertheless a holiday of hope when we pray for the rebuilding of the holy Temple. The children are building their own Beth Hamikdash through all the good things they are doing. Chanie Weiss who teaches Judaica is helping the children with this project, she says there are more bricks going up everyday.

Chanie also teaches the children about the Parshat Hashovuoah — the portion of the Torah which is connected to the week. The children learned about the multi-color coat that Yossef received from his father Yakov. The children made their own multi-color coat as an arts and crafts project. Every week the students have a new project which they learn from the Torah portion of the week.

Now the school is in the midst of preparing a special Purim performance to be held at the Chabad House during the week before Purim.

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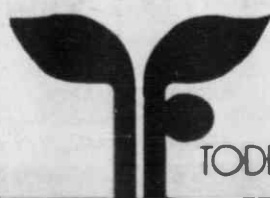
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