



RIDE THE PURIM EXPRESS

DESTINATION: **Pease Auditorium**
CPCC Charlotte, NC

ARRIVAL DAY AND TIME:
Sunday, March 11, 1984
1:00 p.m.

- Sing Along Jewish Country Music with "DOVID LAZERSON and His Country Shtick"
- Watch Awesome Magic Tricks
- Hear the Famous Story "A TON OF ICE CREAM" as Told by Y. N. ERPS "The Storyteller with a Thousand Voices"
- Eat Delicious Sandwiches, "Real Potato Knishes," and Refreshing Cold Soda
- Pick the Winning Ticket for a Super Fabulous Door Prize

• Kids, Bring Your Parents!

ADMISSION
1.00 CHILD
1.50 ADULT
1.00 LUNCH

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TEST YOUR JEWISH I.Q.

1. What are the seven mitzvohs of Purim (five do's and two don'ts)?
2. On which days of the week does Purim not occur?
3. Where are there hints in the Torah for the names of Haman and Esther?
4. What are the names of the special "four portions" which we read this time of year?
5. Why is it customary to dress up on Purim?
6. Who are these characters in the Megilla: Bigson, Vayzoso, Dalfoin, M'Muchon, Zeresh, Charvoino?

Answers on Test Your J.I.Q. of Purim
1. The seven mitzvohs of Purim are: 1) Reading of the Megilla, 2) Sending Shalach Monos, 3) Giving gifts to the poor (Mitzvah Lo Eyo'vim), 4) Sade, 5) Sade, 6) Sade, 7) Sade.
2. Purim is celebrated on the 14th and 15th of the month of Adar.
3. The names of Haman and Esther are mentioned in the Torah in the book of Esther.
4. The special four portions are: Parshas Zachor, Parshas Hachodesh, Parshas Esther, and Parshas Zachor.
5. It is customary to dress up on Purim because of the story of Haman and Esther.
6. The characters in the Megilla are: Haman, Zeresh, Charvoino, Dalfoin, M'Muchon, Vayzoso, and Bigson.

A PURIM MIRACLE

It was March, 1942, a gloomy year for the Jewish people. Hitler's Germany was progressing in the two wars it was fighting against the Allies, and against the Jewish people. Thousands of Jews were being persecuted in the concentration camps, with no hope of escape. However, a few did manage to flee to the forests of Poland, where they joined the partisans fighting the common foe.

Among them were Chaim Wilofsky and Naftali Berger, ages 17 and 18, who had managed to elude their Nazi captors during the roundup in their home town near the small village of Gur. "Purim will be here in a few days," Chaim remarked, in a reflective tone. "Too bad we won't be able to observe it properly."

Naftali smiled. "I have a surprise for you." He picked up his bag, which contained, among other things, ammunition for his rifle and a sidur which he had managed to take along when he fled. Before Chaim's unbelieving eyes, he pulled out a small scroll, which seemed to resemble a Megillah!

"Where in the world did you manage to get that here in the forest?" Chaim asked, wondering.

"This is my grandfather's Megillah, which he wrote with his own hands, with love and devotion," Naftali replied. "The script is truly beautiful. When the Nazis started the roundup, I grabbed a few valuable items and this was one of the things I was able to bring with me. It has great symbolic value," he added, with tears in his eyes. "I understand, Naftali," his companion remarked, "Your ties to the past!"

"Not only that," his friend replied, "but our hope for the future! The story of Purim teaches us never to give up hope. G-d will once again turn the tables on our enemies and save our people."

"But how do you expect to read it on Purim? Our Polish companions will be around. And you know, some of them rival the Nazis in their hatred of the Jews. The only reason they are tolerating our presence here is because we face a common enemy — the Nazis. Otherwise, they couldn't care less if we were exterminated in the camps."

"We'll excuse ourselves for a half hour or so, walk a short distance away in the forest and read quickly. Then we will return to our posts!"

On the day before Purim, shortly before sunset, the two Jewish soldiers approached their Polish commander head of the small band of Partisans. "It's our holiday tonight," Chaim said to the captain, "and we request an hours leave. We shall make up the time."

"There is really no time to observe any religious holidays during the war," the captain answered. "What if the Nazis suddenly appeared? You know the enemy is constantly sending patrols into the forest searching for partisans, for escaped Jews. You'd have no chance, just the two of you!"

"We'll go deeper into the forest," Chaim replied, "They usually don't try to go too far — they search the outskirts. Anyway, we'll be on guard, and return quickly to our unit."

The captain reluctantly agreed. The young men were good soldiers, brave and courageous in battle, and he didn't want to antagonize them. However, there was someone else among the partisans, Jan Berlofsky was his name, and he always resented the Jewish people. He had worked for Jews before the war and was envious of their high standing. This jealousy always affected his attitude, and he could be safely counted among the Polish antisemites. He overheard the conversation between the Jewish soldiers and their captain, and the old flame of hatred flickered in his heart once more.

"The Germans are offering a reward to anyone who hands over a Jew to them," he thought. "I will hide my gun, pretend I am an ordinary peasant and inform them exactly where the young men will be."

He decided that he would keep an eye on them and watch where they would camp to read the Megillah.

In the meantime, with the holiday approaching, Chaim and Naftali were making plans of their own.

"You know, Chaim, we may be so engrossed in the story of Purim as we read the Megillah, that we may not notice an enemy soldier approaching." "Leave that to me, Naftali. I have prepared a plan. It will be an unpleasant surprise to an unwelcome intruder," Chaim replied with a knowing wink.

Naftali glanced at his friend, wondering. "Okay, I'll rely on your judgement. However, I have an-

other question. How about light? We aren't supposed to kindle candles or flames in the forest, because of the enemy. How are we going to read the Megillah in the dark? "I've thought of that, too," Chaim replied. "I've prepared a small lantern with a small candle inside that will last us just long enough to read the Megillah. I've darkened the lantern on three sides, leaving one window clear to let the light through for us to read by. You see, we've taken every possible precaution; the rest is up to G-d. He will surely protect us as He protected our people against the wicked Haman in the days of Mordechai and Esther. Besides, Jews have always taken risks. Didn't Mordechai risk his life by refusing to bow down to Haman? Didn't Esther risk her life going to Achashveirosh uninvited? Do not fear — G-d will protect us!"

Naftali felt somewhat reassured.

"Okay, I'm sure G-d will be with us."

Chaim smiled pointing upwards.

According to regulations, they informed their captain of their whereabouts. Little did they know that someone was listening intently to their conversation with their commander.

Jan smiled. This was going to be easy! As he left to find a Nazi patrol, he placed his gun under a tree, well hidden under the leaves. Chaim led Naftali to the spot which he had prepared. "Follow me," he said "and be careful — don't step to the right or to the left." Naftali glanced at him in a puzzled way, but didn't say anything. After arriving, they lit the lantern. With great joy, Naftali started to read the ancient words of the Megillah and both boys felt a sudden thrill as the story of Purim, so well known to them, started to unfold again.

Little did they realize as they were engrossed in the Megillah that three armed men were approaching quietly. They were the Germans, led by the traitor, Jan.

"It was nice of them to kindle a light to guide us," one of the Nazis whispered, with a smirk on his face.

"Be careful," Jan said, "They are good soldiers and may fight to the end to save themselves."

"Don't worry. We have the drop on them. We will have them covered, and they don't have a chance. I don't even see any arms near them." Meanwhile, unaware of the great danger now facing them, the boys continued the reading. They had just reached the verse 'and the Jews turned the tables on their enemies,' when they heard a sharp command, "HANDS UP! WE HAVE YOU COVERED!" The next moment they were bathed in a strong beam of light.

They were startled. It took them only a few seconds to comprehend the situation and to realize the difficult position they were in.

"That's them" they heard Jan's familiar voice.

"Jan, you traitor! How could you?"

"Silence, Jew! You will now receive your just reward! You can continue to celebrate your holiday in a concentration camp!" With these words, he burst out in shrill laughter.

"We are not moving from this spot," Chaim answered, in a firm voice.

"You will have to come and drag us, or you can kill us right here. I would rather perish here than go with you." With these words, the boys uttered an urgent silent prayer to G-d.

"We could shoot you now," the Nazi commander said, "but we have to ask you a few questions. Besides, we don't want to deprive you of the pleasures of the concentration camp." With those words, they started to approach closer. Suddenly a mighty explosion shook the area. Chaim and Naftali hit the ground with their faces downward. And then suddenly it was quiet. Four dead bodies were strewn on the ground around them. Chaim and Naftali were dirtied by the scattered earth, but otherwise unhurt.

"So this was the surprise you had prepared, Chaim! A booby trap! No wonder you cautioned me not to step to the right or the left."

Chaim smiled. "Even though we rely on G-d, we must still do the best we can do to protect ourselves. Come, let's finish the Megillah and return to our unit."

"Look Chaim," Naftali remarked excitedly, "The candle is still burning. It didn't go with the blast!"

"Another Purim miracle! That must be G-d's message to us — the candle of the Torah and of the Jewish people will never be extinguished! Our enemies keep on trying but they will never succeed!"