

AT THE ARTSCROLL SHABBOS TABLE

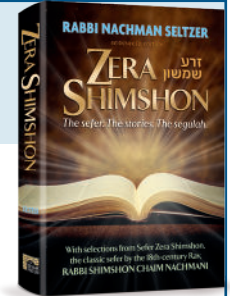
WEEKLY INSPIRATION AND INSIGHT ADAPTED FROM CLASSIC ARTSCROLL TITLES

DEDICATED BY MENACHEM AND BINAH BRAUNSTEIN AND FAMILY
L'ILLUI NISHMAS RAV MOSHE BEN RAV YISSOCHOR BERISH AND MARAS YENTA BAS YISROEL CHAIM

PARASHAH

YOUR TALKING IS PRECIOUS TO ME

Zera Shimshon from Rav Shimshon Chaim Nachmani By Rabbi Nachman Seltzer



וַיִּקְרָא אֶל מֹשֶׁה וַיְדַבֵּר ה' אֵלָיו מֵאֵהָל מוֹעֵד לֵאמֹר.

He called to Moshe, and Hashem spoke to him from the Tent of Meeting, saying (1:1).

The *Midrash (Vayikra Rabbah 1:6)* tells us that Moshe Rabbeinu was distressed at not having been granted the opportunity to contribute anything to the *Mishkan*. Hashem responded by saying, "By your life, I enjoy your speech more than anything else. So you are the only one I called," as it says, "He called to Moshe."

What did Moshe do that pleased Hashem so much?

The *Midrash (Bamidbar Rabbah 12:9)* elaborates with a *pasuk (Mishlei 27:18)*, "He who guards the fig tree will eat its fruit." Why does the *pasuk* specifically use the fig tree as an example and not any other kind of tree?

The answer lies in the difference between the fig tree and every other tree. On most trees, all the fruits become ripe at the same time, but on fig trees the fruits ripen in stages. One needs to guard its fruit to prevent the birds from eating it.

Moshe Rabbeinu was the overseer of the work on the *Mishkan*. He supervised all the minutiae, and was *moser nefesh* to make sure that all the work met Hashem's specifications and didn't deviate in the slightest from what Hashem commanded. It was as though the *Mishkan* was a fig tree that he watched over as each stage developed. The work of the *Mishkan* was therefore attributed to him, as the Torah states, "On the day that Moshe finished..."

The *Midrash* tells us that Moshe Rabbeinu's speech was incredibly beloved by Hashem.

That implies that Moshe was the one doing the talking.

However, the *Midrash* cites the *pasuk*, "He called to Moshe," where we find Hashem doing the talking and not Moshe.

When the *Midrash* says, "Your speech is beloved by Me," it's referring to Moshe's ongoing discussions with the craftsmen and those who

were doing the construction. This devotion on Moshe's part was more beloved by Hashem than anything donated by anyone else. Why is that?

He who convinces people to do a *mitzvah* is greater than the one who does it himself (*Bava Basra 9a*). Moshe was the one who stood behind the people and inspired them to maximize

their potential, and Hashem treasured him for it and told him not to feel bad, since it was his doing that was the cause of everything else.

That is why Hashem called Moshe and secluded Himself alone with Moshe inside the *Mishkan*. It was as if Moshe himself had done everything and therefore it was all attributed to his name.

This is also why the *pasuk* concludes with the word "saying," which implies that because Moshe Rabbeinu told everyone what to do and how to do it, he was called to come before Hashem, because it was his power of speech that had succeeded in constructing the perfect *Mishkan* and it was all attributed to him. 📖

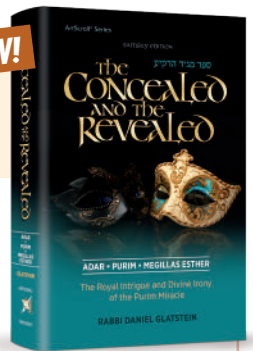
IT WAS HIS DOING THAT WAS THE CAUSE OF EVERYTHING ELSE.

ARTSCROLL MESSAGES

THE MOST IMPORTANT MIRACLE OF THE PURIM STORY

The Concealed and the Revealed by Rabbi Daniel Glatstein

NEW!



The *Chasam Sofer* strives to identify the true miracle of the *Purim* narrative. While *Klal Yisrael's* salvation from the evil plots of Haman is certainly an event worth celebrating, it is not entirely beyond the realm of the expected. *HaKadosh Baruch Hu* would not punish His nation if the people changed their ways and repented earnestly. Hashem's acceptance of our *teshuvah* could hardly be regarded as a miracle.

When Esther pleaded for her life and for the lives of her nation, Achashveirosh's allegiance shifted from Haman. This was a remarkable occurrence, but again not a distinctly surprising one. She was his wife and, therefore, choosing her over Haman was also not truly a miracle.

The *Chasam Sofer* directs our attention to what he believes was the most important miracle of the *Purim* story. Due to his miscalculation, Achashveirosh mistakenly thought that the time for the *Beis HaMikdash* to have been rebuilt had come and gone. He celebrated *Klal Yisrael's* continued *galus* with a lavish party. Shockingly, there were members of the Jewish community of Shushan who participated in the festivities.

This was an egregious offense of such magnitude that it warranted a severe punishment being meted out to the entire nation. As a direct re-

sult of their partaking of the feast of Achashveirosh, *Klal Yisrael* was issued a verdict of annihilation. In punishment for enjoying Achashveirosh's party, the Jewish nation was to be wiped out. When they subsequently did *teshuvah*, Hashem rescinded His decree and they were spared.

Let's analyze how the salvation of the Jewish people came about. When did Hashem lay the groundwork for a possible deliverance if the Jews were to repent? Through the choice



The Chasam Sofer

THE EVENTS THAT PAVED THE WAY FOR HER TO ENTER THE PALACE WERE THE PLANTING OF THE SEEDS OF REDEMPTION.

of Esther as queen and her imploring her husband to save her people, Hashem orchestrated our redemption. The events that paved the way for her to enter the palace were the planting of the seeds of redemption.

Our salvation was a result of Esther becoming queen, which was a direct outcome of her predecessor, Vashti, being dethroned, at the very party that prompted the horrific *gezeirah* in the first place!

At the precise moment that the Jews of Shushan were sinning, as

they enjoyed themselves at Achashveirosh's feast, Hashem was already setting the stage for the salvation of *Klal Yisrael* if they were to do *teshuvah*.

Hashem's love for His children, for *Am Yisrael*, was so strong that while the Jews were incurring His wrath to the point that He would decide to annihilate the entire nation, at the very same time He was already providing a contingency plan for how the Jews could be saved.

Even while we were sinning to the point that we deserved the punishment of *lehashmid laharog ul'ebeid* (*Esther* 3:13), Hashem's deeply rooted love for us meant that He was already planning a provision for our salvation. He orchestrated events that culminated in Vashti's execution, providing the perfect opening for Esther to become the next queen. At the very time that we were rebelling against the *Ribbono Shel Olam*, His focus was on how to save us.

The *Chasam Sofer* writes that this is the main miracle of *Purim*. At the time that the most appalling of sins were being committed, Hashem was still demonstrating His love for *Klal Yisrael* and was planning their *yeshuah*. 📖

THIS WEEK'S DAF YOMI SCHEDULE:

MARCH / אדר ב'

| SHABBOS | SUNDAY | MONDAY | TUESDAY | WEDNESDAY | THURSDAY | FRIDAY |
|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|------------|------------|
| 12 ט | 13 י | 14 יא | 15 יב | 16 יג | 17 יד | 18 טו |
| Yevamos 5 | Yevamos 6 | Yevamos 7 | Yevamos 8 | Yevamos 9 | Yevamos 10 | Yevamos 11 |

THIS WEEK'S MISHNAH YOMI SCHEDULE:

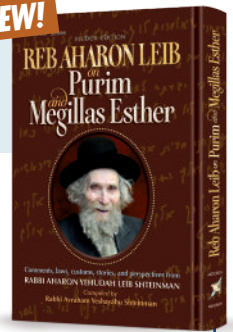
MARCH / אדר ב'

| SHABBOS | SUNDAY | MONDAY | TUESDAY | WEDNESDAY | THURSDAY | FRIDAY |
|-------------|--------------|----------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|
| 12 ט | 13 י | 14 יא | 15 יב | 16 יג | 17 יד | 18 טו |
| Demai 5:7-8 | Demai 5:9-10 | Demai 5:11-6:1 | Demai 6:2-3 | Demai 6:4-5 | Demai 6:6-7 | Demai 6:8-9 |

PRIVY TO HEAVENLY DECLARATIONS

Rav Aharon Leib Shteinman on Purim and Megillas Esther
Compiled by Rabbi Avraham Yeshayahu Shteinman

NEW!



“Mordechai learned of all that had been done” (Esther 4:1).

At times, we are privy to the immense greatness of *gedolei Yisrael*, whose lofty spiritual level enables them to know what is happening in Heaven. They live among us down on earth, yet their towering spirits roam the upper worlds.

A person does not realize, Rav Aharon Leib Shteinman said, that everything Hashem does for him is purely for his benefit — even when it seems to be bad. For instance, many European Jews who were sent to Siberia emerged alive, while those who remained behind met a harsh fate and even death.

When Rav Yechezkel Abramsky was sent to Siberia, many people were certain that that would be his end, but he managed to return safely and live for many years afterward.

He was released from Siberia on

the morning of *Erev Yom Kippur* — and exactly at that time the Chofetz Chaim, who was thousands of miles away, declared that the plans of the



Rav Yechezkel Abramsky

**EVERYTHING
HASHEM
DOES FOR A
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HIS BENEFIT.**

Russians had been foiled and the *rav* of Slutsk had been freed.

When Rav Abramsky arrived at the train that would transport him to freedom, he showed his ticket to the conductor, who said, “I will not allow you to travel twenty-four hours in this cold, from which people are dying.” He then arranged that Rav Abramsky receive a ticket for a heated train car.

Subsequently, Rav Abramsky saw that at each station, dead bodies were being removed from the other cars. Clearly, the conductor had recognized that Rav Abramsky was a distinguished person. The wicked Russians did not care that people were dying, but Hashem had arranged for Rav Abramsky to be saved.

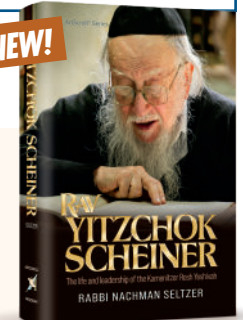
Rav Shteinman explained that Hashem reveals the declarations made in Heaven to those who perform His will, as necessary and appropriate. Furthermore, He compels those who are privy to these revelations to publicize them — for otherwise, how do we explain why the Chofetz Chaim loudly proclaimed that Rav Abramsky had been released? 📖

HUMILITY

LIKE EQUALS

Rav Yitzchok Scheiner – *The life and leadership of the Kamenitzer Rosh Yeshivah* by Rabbi Nachman Seltzer

NEW!



During a visit of R' Chaim Dov Sorotzkin, a relative of Rav Yitzchok Scheiner, to the *rosh yeshivah's* house, he brought along his cousin, R' Matis Goldberg, a noted photographer of *gedolei Yisrael*. Their meeting that day lasted several hours, and when it concluded, R' Chaim Dov could see that his cousin was somewhat overwhelmed by everything he had seen and heard. R' Chaim Dov asked him why he was so taken aback.

“I’ll tell you why he impressed me so much,” R’ Matis replied. “You remember how he was talking about Rav Michel Yehudah Lefkowitz? He spent a lot of time talking about what a *gadol* he is — and then he uttered a line that really made me sit up and take notice.”

“What line was that?”

“Rav Yitzchok said: ‘The three of us will never be like Rav Michel Yehudah. He is a *kadosh*. He was born in Vilna and learned in the best European *yeshivos*. We will never be like him. I was really into chess when I was young. I even followed some of the best players

and could describe the games they played in detail. But Rav Michel Yehudah wasn’t like that. He was *kulo kadosh!*’

“Did you catch that? The *rosh yeshivah* was equating himself with us! ‘We will never be like him.’ Those were the words he used, making it sound as if we are all equal and playing for the same team when we aren’t even in the same ballpark.

“And he didn’t do it only once. Throughout the conversation, Rav Yitzchok included himself along with me and you, as if we are his equals in every way. Never mind the fact that he is among the *gedolei hador* and a member of the Moetzes Gedolei HaTorah. Even without all that, he’s almost a hundred years old! We’re still kids compared to him. And yet he put himself in the same sentence with us.”

Rav Yitzchok epitomized humility, never viewing himself as any more significant than anyone else. 📖



Purim for Children

Did You Know?

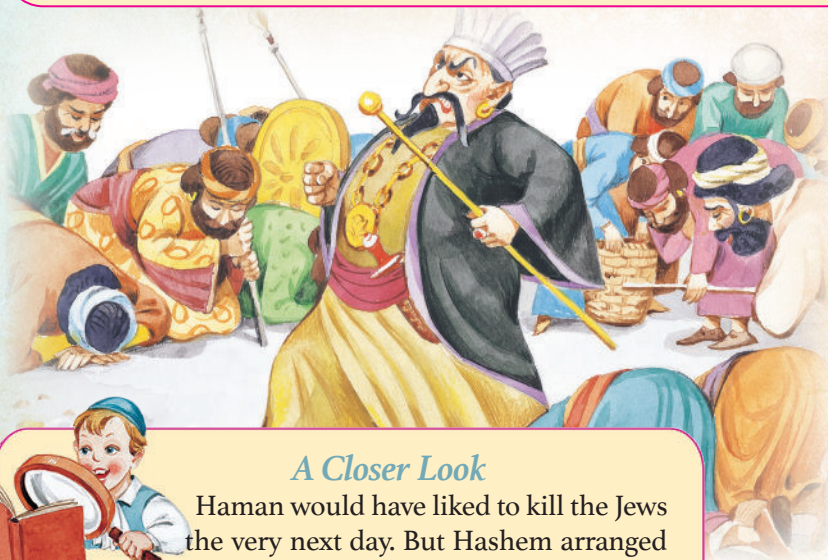
Whenever Haman had an important decision to make, he always used a lottery.

Haman thought that Adar was an unlucky month for the Jews, because that is the month when Moshe Rabbeinu died. He did not realize that Adar is also the month that Moshe was born (he was born and died on the seventh of Adar).



A Closer Look

King Achashveirosh hated the Jews even more than Haman did. When Haman offered the king ten thousand talents of silver, Achashveirosh told him to keep his money, because it would be a big enough favor just to destroy all the Jews.



A Closer Look

Haman would have liked to kill the Jews the very next day. But Hashem arranged the lottery so that the time to kill the Jews would be in Adar, which was a whole year away. This would give them a chance to repent and be saved.



Did You Know?

Haman was a descendent of Amalek. After the Exodus from Egypt, Amalek attacked the Jewish people in the desert. Hashem commanded the Jewish people to destroy all of Amalek.

Hundreds of years later, Hashem ordered King Shaul to wipe out the entire nation of Amalek, but Shaul had pity on Agag, the king of Amalek, and let him live. Haman was a descendent of Agag. If King Shaul would have done what he was told, Haman would never have been born. This teaches us that we must listen to all of Hashem's commands even if we do not understand them.



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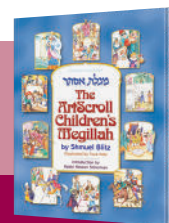
THE WEEKLY QUESTION

Question for Parashas Zachor-Purim:

What was Esther Hamalka's father's name?

Kids, please ask your parents to email the answer to shabbosquestion@artscroll.com by this Wednesday to be entered into a weekly raffle to win a \$36 ARTSCROLL GIFT CARD! Be sure to include your full name, city, and contact info. Names of winners will appear in a future edition. HINT: The answer can be found in *The ArtScroll Children's Megillah*.

The winner of the Parashas Ki Sisa question is: THE KATZ FAMILY, Norfolk, VA



The question was: On which day were the Jews taught the laws of giving a silver half-shekel? The answer is: The laws about donating silver were given to the Jews on Yom Kippur, the day Moshe came down from Sinai with the second set of Luchos.