

**nageela**

**Shabbos**

OUR  
264<sup>TH</sup>  
EPISODE

SEASON 7, EPISODE 21

Registration is  
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HAVE A

A Kid Friendly Torah Magazine by Nageela West Coast

# DVAR TORAH

## Tasteless Professionals by Rabbi Dani Locker

Medicine tastes ouchy. We all know that. So I have an awesome idea for a new business. If you

invest early, you can really be a part of something huge! Here's my pitch:

We know medicine tastes bad, but sometimes you need it to feel better. Hire one of our 'Tasteless Professionals'. We'll eat, drink, swallow, get injected, whatever you need. We'll take the meds, so you can get better without the discomfort!

Does that sound like a good idea?

There's an obvious benefit in that if it works, you'll get better without taking medicine or having surgery. There's an obvious flaw, a technicality really, in that it just won't work. You can't take medicine for someone else. It won't heal them. So, maybe we'll skip this particular business plan.

Our parsha, Tetzaveh, gives about the special uniforms the 'Temple employees', Kohanim who served in the Beis Hamikdash. The Jerusalem Talmud tells us that these special garments acted to get forgiveness for the Jewish people for certain mistakes. The list goes something like this:  
The

the details worn by the



Kohen's shirt could expiate the sin of wearing forbidden clothing mixtures, and his pants atoned for immorality. The turban forgave haughtiness. The belt atoned for thievery and the breastplate forgave mistakes in judgment. The apron atoned for idol worship, and the bells upon the coat (called the me'il) forgave improper speech and accidental killing.

So here's my question: Did the Kohen do all these sins? Is he getting forgiveness for all the terrible things HE did? If that's the case, it doesn't help the rest of us very much, does it. Clearly, this Talmudic passage is saying that ALL the Jews can get some sort of forgiveness because some other guy wore special clothing. How does that work? It sounds like someone taking medicine for someone else!

Yes, the Kohen wearing his garments can help us. No, it's not an automatic free pass. Firstly, just so we're clear, no magic power, sacrifice or prayer can actually get us forgiveness unless we also sincerely want to be better, regret our actions and begin to change. But even with sincere change, we can't automatically undo mistakes. That's where sacrifices and

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# QUESTION OF THE WEEK

HOW MANY SIMILARITIES CAN YOU THINK OF THAT EXIST BETWEEN AHARON THE KOHEN GADOL, AND ACHASHVEIROSH, KING OF PERSIA?

I'VE GOT 4...

**NO CHEATING**

ANSWER ON PAGE 4

other acts of 'atonement' come in. When the Kohen Gadol would wear his beautiful, meaningful symbolic clothing, it would help other Jews- the ones who saw them (and possibly even the ones who heard about them) appreciate and venerate God in a clearer and stronger way. It wasn't actually the wearing of the clothing that brought us forgiveness, but the effect it had upon us that helped us change.

All of our mitzvos, our holidays, our practices- they're not simply meant as rituals that magically bring blessing and make God happy. They're wayyy deeper than that. They are all meant to help us gain and grow by learning from them, experiencing them and becoming a different person because of them. As Purim pops in and pops out, we have to remember that it is our job to take something away from it. Not just way too much candy, but also a greater appreciation of God's love for us, and how he protects us, and what the Jewish people have to do to merit that protection. And joy. Loads of joy!

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

**MOSAICS**  
**4G**  
WEDNESDAY,  
MARCH 1ST  
6 - 7:30 PM  
JOIN US FOR  
FUN, FOOD, AND  
LEARNING!  
@ THE KOLLEL  
1755 VILLAGE CENTER  
CIRCLE  
\$10

FOR GIRLS ONLY  
MARCH 8TH

# PICKLE JEWS

**GALACTICALLY SYNDICATED  
COMIC STRIP**

by Dani Locker, 2023

How Purim actually got its name...



# STUMP THE RABBI

Stump the Rabbi is a forum where kids can ask ANY Jewish question.

Have a question? Please send it in to [stump@nageelawest.org](mailto:stump@nageelawest.org)

(Most) questions here are real. Names and some wording have been changed.

**Note & Disclaimer:** We call this 'Stump The Rabbi' for fun, but that's not really the point. The goal is to learn something important in an interesting way. The answers here should not be taken as halachic decisions. You should always ask a competent Rabbi personally.

Hi Rabbi,

## #232 The Hunger Games

**It is my understanding that Jewish fast days are sad, commemorating tragedies in our history. So why is there a fast day attached to Purim? The whole month is supposed to be happy, right? Certainly in the minutes before we read the megillah it's appropriate to be happy, isn't it?**

Thanks,

Hope Unger

Dear HUNger,

This question really bugged me when I was younger. Here I am, dressed up, hyped up, excited for the nighttime megillah reading, but I'm s t a r v i n g and kind of bummed about that. Why do we attach a fast day to Purim? Let me ask you a question. Why do we celebrate Purim?

What? You're on mute. Just push... yeah. OK I can hear you now.

Because we were saved from Haman and his evil minions.

Personally, I think minions are cute, but whatever. You're right of course, but let me ask you this. WHO saved us from Haman?

God, of course.

Incorrect.

Wha- huh? What? Aren't you a RABBI? What do you mean God didn't save us. I learned this. Even though there's no mention of God in the megillah, God was working behind the scenes!

Correct.

But- owww, my head hurts. Did God save us or not?

Exactly.

OK, I'll explain what I mean. But only because you asked nicely. Certainly

God saved us. There were many hidden miracles hinted at in the megillah and our salvation was definitely divine. But it didn't have to happen. By the end of the 4th chapter of the megillah (the scroll containing the Purim story), the Jews are on death row, we had a deadly decree hanging over our heads, and **IT WAS SUPPOSED TO STAY THAT WAY!** God had decided that for a number of reasons (debated by the Talmud in Megillah as to exactly what the problem was) Haman was going to succeed and the Jewish people would have been destroyed. So what happened? The Jewish people prayed. We fasted. We did teshuva- returning to the proper way of life and renewing our relationship with God. **ONLY** after that happened were we worthy of being rescued.

So now let's revisit your question. If Purim is just a celebration of survival- Hooray we didn't die! Woohoo! Let's party! - we would just party and would have no reason to fast. We would thank God, be happy and move on. But that's not what Purim is about. It's the story of **US** changing. Of us praying, fasting



114

DAYS UNTIL  
CNW GIRLS  
2023

135

DAYS UNTIL  
CNW BOYS  
2023

# DEEP THOUGHTS

## IF YOU'RE TRAVELING AT THE SPEED OF LIGHT, DO HEADLIGHTS WORK?

and becoming better people, and successfully **CHANGING** a terminal decree. And it goes ever farther. People tend to think that the fast of Esther is named for the three day fast that Esther (and the Jewish people) undertook. Indeed that is the opinion of Maimonides. However, most opinions agree that it was actually to commemorate a fast that actually took place the day before the original Purim. The Megillah tells us that the Jews fought their enemies on the 13th day of Adar, and celebrated on the 14th. According to many opinions, the Jews fasted on the 13th of Adar, the day of the fighting. A hearty breakfast probably makes for a better day of battle, but the Jews at that time realized that our victory would not be a purely physical victory. Our win was based on being better Jews who were more connected and committed to God.

Might your fasting prevent you from getting into party mode? Yeah, maybe. But it will probably help you get into the mode of remembering why the Purim miracle happened in the first place. **It might not make you full, but it should make you meaning-full.**

Have a Nageela Shabbos,

*The Rabbi*

# HBD

We'd like to wish a happy birthday to:

- SAM HODARA
- ALEXANDER MIZRACHI
- ELI Baly
- ALEX DAVIDSON
- EENBAL BROMLEY
- JASPER GOLDFANG
- ASHER LEVENTHAL
- OREYA GAZALA
- ELI LUGASI
- SHLOMO ZACHAI
- SHYLEE SHABTAI
- DOVID LOCKER
- STEVEN KOSTICK
- BELLA LYTTLE

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**PURIM COSTUME CONTEST**

4TH-8TH GRADERS MAY ENTER. NO LIMIT ON ENTRIES PER PERSON. SEVERAL CATEGORIES OF WINNERS. SUBMIT YOUR ENTRY BY POSTING A PIC OF YOU IN YOUR COSTUME ON INSTAGRAM AND TAGGING @JEWNIOR\_NCSY OR EMAILING TO LOCKERD@NCSY.ORG. EXPLANATIONS MAY BE ADDED IF YOU WANT. ENTRY DEADLINE, WEDNESDAY, MARCH 8TH. WINNERS ANNOUNCED MARCH 9TH

JewNIOR NCSY

I HEARD ABOUT A CRIMINAL WHO HAD A BOUNTY ON HIS HEAD...

**LOLZ**

WHICH IS A TRULY STRANGE PLACE TO KEEP YOUR PAPER TOWELS

THINK YOU CAN DO BETTER? YOU'RE PROBABLY RIGHT. SEND YOUR JOKES IN TO DLOCKER@NAGEELAWEST.ORG



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## ANSWER OF THE WEEK

QUESTION ON PAGE 2

- THE JEWISH KING 'SAUL' NEUUGHADNETZAR RESPECTIVELY. ALSO, ESTHER WAS DESCENDED FROM DAUGHTER AND GRANDDAUGHTER OF BABYLONIAN KING BELSHAZAR AND LINE THAT SPANNED KING DAVID. ACHASHVEIROSH MARRIED VASHTI, THE 4. THEY BOTH MARRIED INTO ROYAL FAMILIES. ELISHVEVA WAS FROM THE LEGALLY, ACHASHVEIROSH WORE IT AT HIS GRANT FEAST. 3. THEY BOTH WORE THE UNIFORM OF THE KOHEN GADOL. AHARON DID IT (ELISHVEVA AND ESTHER). 2. THEY MARRIED WOMEN WHOSE NAMES START WITH THE LETTER ALEF. 1. THEIR NAMES BOTH START WITH THE LETTER ALEF.