Shabbat Hagadol or Shabbat HaKatan? (2024)

(Metzora)

The Chidushei HaRim zt'l teaches that Shabbat HaGadol is a day of atonement, similar to Yom Kippur. Yom Kippur is on the 10th of Tishrei, and the miracles of Shabbat HaGadol were on the 10th of Nisan. On Rosh Hoshanna we are encouraged to start the year off right by adding something additional to our Yiddishkeit, some small mitzva that we will keep throughout the year. I suggest we add one 'national' mitzva at this time, as it is the anniversary of the birth of our Nation.

On Shabbat Hagadol the Rabbis talk very proudly of how we tied the Egyptian gods to our bed posts and told our former Egyptian taskmasters that we plan to roast their gods in a few days. This set off a civil war between first born Egyptians that caused thousands of Egyptians to die while we sat and prepared for that first Pesach. Did we suddenly become Kahanist's? Did the fear of the Jews suddenly spread through the land? I am not sure. Even though on the seder night we are told '*In every generation a person is obligated to regard himself as if he had come out of Egypt'* It is hard to imagine exactly how this transformation occurred.

We do know however, according to Chazal, that we were on the 49th level of Tuma. One more degree and we would have vanished from history. Today after receiving the Torah and passing through many generations of glorious battles and victories I would imagine that we are no longer at that 49th level of degradation. If that is so, then I would suggest that instead of being proud of Shabbat Hagadol, we may feel a little embarrassed.

If our ancestors did such tremendous actions at their low level, what does it say about us at our level today? With our army and weapons and hi-tech, are we able to throw out our enemies? Are we able to announce that we are now settling Gaza and planning to build the 3rd Temple? The 14-year-old shepherd Binyamin Achimair (h'yd) was discovered this week murdered by Arabs not far from his home. The hilltop youth took revenge and burned the nearby Arab village and were arrested. The usual Jewish informers were there taking pictures and defending the murderous Arab enemies. October 7 has not changed Jewish informers and government forces that persecute good Jews settling the Land while appeasing blood thirsty Arabs and antisemitic blood libels from Washington.

Lenny Goldberg on his Truth Bomb podcast made an interesting point that 'unity' may be a bit overrated. He pointed out that in Treblinka and Auschwitz there was also unity. All different types of Jews were dying together. Maybe it is better to support uncompromising victory against our enemies and a strong Jewish State instead of unity with those who despise the Torah and Judaism. Our constant supply trucks to our enemies in Gaza and our weak and compromised response to Iran is only inviting more aggression against us. To counter this we need to transform ourselves like the Jews in Egypt did. On this National Yom Kippur, let us add a new National mitzva or two. Let us increase the minyan on the Har Habayit and demand the building of our Temple. Let us demand the resettling of Gaza and repatriation of Arabs to any of their twenty-two Muslim states or American or European countries that support their cause.

On a positive note, I noticed that last year during the Omer, Shabbat always fell out on Gevura. At the time I had hoped that Shabbat would soften any Gevura (Judgement) that was destined

that year. Maybe it did. Maybe Oct. 7 may have been even worse. Or maybe no segula or warning can prevent those hysterically programmed to provoke Hashem and the Jewish identity of Israel. This year Shabbat falls out on Netzach (Victory). I hope this is a good sign.

May we continue to move forward and add more personal and national mitzvot. Let Hashem hear us cry out to Him that we want Him to lead us and that we will choose His way despite all obstacles externally and internally. Let us transform ourselves like the Jews of Egypt who defied their former taskmasters. Let there not be unity with informers and court jews. This is the holiday where we increase our faith, increase our ability to divest ourselves from foreign worship to the point that we ridicule it and roast it on the fire while we move forward into the sea.

Let our enemies kill each other while we march forth with Hashems protection. May the great miracles we saw after Parsha Tazria change us and cleanse us like the Metzora and renew us. It is a month of miracles if we choose correctly. When we go against our nature Hashem changes nature for our sake. God willing let the Netzach increase with each Shabbat of this National New Year. No more embarrassing Shabbat Katan's, let this really be a Shabbat HaGadol.

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