Joining Purim and Pesach (2024)

(Tzav)

The Farbrengen table had been moved by the doorway because there was a foul odor from a dead rat in the Bet Knesset. Poison had been put out and three or four rats had been found during the week and disposed of, but a fifth carcass was hidden somewhere. I mentioned that there is so much Chassidut in this Bet Knesset that the walls of the building itself are giving us mussar. Let me explain what I mean.

Chazal tells us that we should connect the simcha of Purim into the Shabbat that follows and that Purim and Pesach are considered a period of connecting Geula to Geula. The end of the year and the beginning of the year of the 'Nation of Israel' are joined. The climax of the year ending in the overturning of Amalek is joined with the renewal of the year, when we overturned Egypt and were born as a Nation. We are starting to think about cleaning for Pesach and designating places that are for chametz and places that are chametz free. This all culminates in the ritual of bedikah chametz which we do just before entering the holiday of Pesach.

Imagine that we found only nine out of ten pieces of chametz in our search. We could simply say whatever I did not find, let it be ownerless like the dust. After all its only one small piece of chametz. Chametz starts with the letter 'Chet'. Chet means 'sin' in Hebrew. Who will notice one small sin? Chet is also the first letter of Chulda, which means rat. That one small sin can turn into a dead rat. If I have disposed of four or five other rats, who will notice if there is one dead rat remaining somewhere? Obviously, that isn't the case. If one looked at their character flaws as dead rats, that one flaw, could be driving people away and preventing them from getting close to you.

Having said that, the teshuva and renewal we consider before Pesach has a different quality than the teshuva before Rosh Hoshanna. On Rosh Hoshanna we are thinking about our personal destinies, while on Pesach we need to consider our national destiny. We have disposed of quite a few Haman rats in Gaza, however what are the consequences of not finishing the job? Are we going to get accustomed to the new normal of Nazi rats and the odor of a decaying sanctuary? All of our success will become meaningless if we do not complete the mission and find all of the rats.

Service

In this week's Parsha we read about the inauguration of the Cohanim and their Miluim offering. Milluim is the same word used for an Israeli soldier's reserve army service. There is an interesting parallel between the Cohen's uniform worn in the sacrificial service and the soldier's uniform in his own sacrificial service. Most of our Nation has been drafted since the invasion of Oct 7 and we stand in preparation for wars on other fronts. May Hashem protect the holy soldiers that sacrifice themselves for the Nation and may they succeed in finding and disposing of every last Nazi enemy.

In preparation for Pesach we also read Parsha Parah this week. The sprinkling of the ashes of the Parah Aduma cleanses one from Tuma Meis (impurity from coming in contact with a corpse) so that one can ascend the Temple and offer their Korban Pesach.

If a person becomes unclean and does not cleanse himself, that soul shall be cut off from the congregation, for he has defiled the Sanctuary of the Lord; the **sprinkling waters** were not sprinkled upon him. He is unclean.	וְאִישׁ אֲשֶׁר־יִטְמָא וְלֹא יִתְחַטָּא וְנִכְרְתָה הַנֶּפֶשׁ הַהִוא מִתּוֹךְ הַקָּהָל כִּי אֶת־מִקְדַּשׁ יְהוָה טִמֵּא **מֵי נִדָּה** לֹא־זֹרַק עָלָיו טָמֵא הוּא׃

(Bamidbar 19:20)

The word Mei Niddah (sprinkling waters), also spell the word Medina (State), as in the State of Israel. I suggest one could read this passage, 'if the State of Israel has not been thrown upon you, you are impure'. One may live in a glatt kosher community in the exile, but it is like he is dead. One living in the Land of Israel, even with the struggles, animosities, idolatry and corruption, is alive and contributing to building Hashem's Kingdom here in the Land of Israel (see Ketubot 110b). It appears there are a number of stages to this ritual purity. The Cohen that administers the mixture himself becomes impure. How do we understand this?

In our times there was a holy Cohen that sprinkled the mixture of life upon Israel, and by doing so was considered impure and isolated like a leper. He was constantly imprisoned on trumped up charges and persecuted. That man was Rav Kahane (h'yd). This impurity however, lasts only until evening. When the dawn of redemption comes, we will understand the deeper meaning of these rituals. We will also understand the great sacrifice of those who tried to bring the redemption and were persecuted for their love of the Jewish people and their loyalty to defend Hashem's honor against those who defame and provoke. Those who lacked the courage and integrity to stand with true Tzadikim and distorted the truth to avoid confrontation will also be embarrassed, when the night passes and those who remained pure and faithful will be restored.

Moshe had a difficult time understanding how the Nation of Israel could be purified from death until Hashem showed him the secret of the Parah Aduma. After Am Israel recaptured the level of Adam before he sinned at Har Sinai and then destroyed this exalted spiritual level with the Golden Calf, how could life be restored after death had been reinstituted in the world? Hashem explained to him the secrets of the Parah Aduma. Maybe the 'Medina' sheds some light on these secrets. When our idols have been destroyed and turned into ashes, what we thought was night will become a new day and Israel will be resurrected anew. All that was formerly impure and persecuted will be exalted.

The Sifting Process

We have been going through a sifting process since Oct 7. One might say this sifting may have begun with Corona and the breaking down of many illusions and realities. The beginning of these wars of Gog and Magog have brought a new sifting process. Some who had been refined through Corona have become hard like rock and now support our enemies. Some who were previously hard like rock in their support of illusions they thought protected them are starting to

break apart and being refined. We are on the brink of WWIII and all the superpowers are threatening each other with Israel in the eye of the tornado. The only solution for Israel is to keep moving forward into the sea.

We cannot sit back and say we have eliminated four or five rats. We cannot try and get used to the smell of the remaining dead rat. If all the rats are not thrown out the situation will become intolerable. The smell of death surrounds us, but there is an elixir of life that will purify us and strengthen us.

We spoke last week, of the flour power of the Kamitza that was related to the Purim story. The poor man who only has flour to offer is like offering his soul. This can be related to one who has nothing else to rely on and so offers his soul. Or one who is poor in mitzvot and offers his soul. In any case this simple faith and desire to offer a sacrifice was worth more than the large sum Haman paid the king to make his evil decree and has the power to overturn evil decrees. Within Kamitza are letters that spell Miketz which remind us of the end of days. The removal of chametz, the destruction of Amalek and turning our false reliance's into ashes will bring us life and salvation.

At the farbrengen table a man recounted that the Ari Zal said that if it was not for the Erev Rav who made the Golden Calf, we would not have received the thirteen attributes from Hashem nor be commanded to build our Holy Temple as a remedy. He went on to say that Yoseph actually began the process of preparing the Erev Rav when he gave a brit milah to all the Egyptians. In fact, one of the reasons we went down to Egypt was to bring these souls out which apparently came from the time of Adam HaRishon. The sifting of illusions, the breaking apart of false realities, the ashes of yesterday's idols mixed with the water of Torah, is bringing about a new life. We must continue forward without fear.

Today a number of red heifers have been found and are being raised in Shiloh. We are preparing for the building of the Bet Hamigdash. Those who are hard as rock will remain so. Those who purify themselves holding onto a dead rat will remain impure and the shechina will run from their bad odor. Those who are legitimately concerned and worried as the world seems to be falling apart bear in mind that security and joy and happiness awaits you when you purify yourself and ascend to the Har Habayit. Demonstrate to our father in Heaven that we want His protection and the eternal life of his Etz Chaim.

> A boorish man does not know; neither does a fool understand this. When the wicked flourish like grass, and all workers of violence blossom, it is only to destroy them till eternity. But You remain exalted forever, O Lord. For behold Your enemies, O Lord, for behold Your enemies will perish; all workers of violence will scatter. (Tehillim 92)

Everything that is occurring is for a final accounting to the nations that have oppressed us. If we make ourselves small we will fall through the sifter into the hand of the Bore Olam and he will carry us on his wings. Come to the Har Habayit - we are leaving Egypt soon.

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