

The Shul
at the Lubavitch Center
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March 18, 2017

Ki Tisa — Parshat Parah

20 Adar, 5777

Be Strong! Be Happy!

Years ago, when I was a more avid exerciser, I met a lot of strong people. I am talking about guys that could bench press nearly twice their weight.

The importance of exercise notwithstanding, true strength is not about weights or tests of physical strength or stamina. True strength is the strength within.

A powerful king in search of solitude was once walking down a path when he mistakenly bumped into an old man. After apologizing, the king asked the old man who he was.

"I am a king," answered the old man. "A king?" responded the king in surprise. "Where is your domain?" "My domain is myself," answered the old man. "I am the absolute ruler over myself."

So much for strength. What about happiness? I bet many people would forego strength for happiness. Here is the kicker. True strength and true happiness go hand in hand. It is all found in a profound lesson the Rebbe derives from the Jewish month of Adar in which we find ourselves right now.

The names of the Jewish months were remembered by the Jewish People following the end of the Babylonian exile and the rebuilding of the Second Temple in 370 BCE. These names all possess a special element of holiness, as they are part of the very same holy language that G-d used to create the world.

The Talmud instructs us to increase in joy during Adar. As a matter of fact, since things are so bright during Adar, our Sages suggest that anyone who has a court case should try to schedule it during the month of Adar when the Jewish People find particularly good favor in the eyes of G-d.

The word "Adar" literally means might, as the verse in Psalms uses the word "Adir" meaning "mighty" in praise of G-d. During this month of Adar, the Jewish People are endowed with an additional dose of might to be able to combat their challenges successfully.

Utilizing this additional might allows us to be able to transform hardship into success and sadness into joy. This was realized in the year 355 BCE when the miracle of Purim occurred during the month of Adar. The day that had been slated to be a day of wanton murder and destruction of the Jewish People became a day of great joy that continues to be celebrated today.

Our Sages instruct us to "increase" in our joy during this month. This means that the culmination of our joy during the month of Adar has to be at the end of the month. As the days go by, we are to be happier and happier as we use our might more and our challenges gradually decrease into oblivion.

It seems nice, but it is difficult. This is where I will share with you the wisdom I heard from my dear father, may he live and be well gezunterheit, that I often share with others and have proclaimed in this space many times in the past. He once said to me, "Mein kind ("my child" in Yiddish), better to fake joy than to be truthfully sad. Ultimately, the joy becomes genuine because it is always inside of you. Now go reveal it."

Friends, it is the joyous month of Adar so let's rejoice!

May G-d guard our brethren in Israel and the world over from harm and send us Moshiach speedily. Chazak!

(by Rabbi Yossy Gordon from <http://www.lchaimweekly.org/>)

Pipe Dreams

In this week's parashah, we read of the making of the Golden Calf. Many commentaries agree that the Golden Calf was never meant as an idol to be worshiped. Rather, writes R' Avraham Yitzchak Kilav shlita (formerly an instructor at Yeshivat Merkaz Ha'rav and Chief Judge of the Yerushalayim rabbinical court), it was meant to be a conduit for Hashem's goodness to flow to mankind. He explains:

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The Prophets write that the image of a shor / ox appears on G-d's Throne. What does this mean; indeed, what does it mean that G-d has a "Throne"? Hashem's "Throne" refers to the fact that He manages the world, just as a human king sitting on the throne governs his kingdom. However, Hashem does not generally interact directly with His world, i.e., He does not randomly distribute His goodness to the world. Instead, there must be worthy recipients to act as conduits. Even if the worthy recipients are few—even if there is only one—Hashem's goodness can enter our world through them.

Naturally, Bnei Yisrael recognized that the world was sustained to a great degree through Moshe Rabbeinu's merit. Thus, when Moshe seemingly went missing, Bnei Yisrael felt the need to replace him with a new conduit for Hashem's goodness. Having seen the image of a shor on Hashem's "Throne," they believed that that would be a fitting conduit for Hashem's goodness. As noted, Hashem's "Throne" refers to the fact that He manages the world. The image of the shor on the "Throne" reflects the goodness that comes through working the land; thus, they thought that a conduit in the form of a shor would bring Hashem's goodness to them. However, this too was a sin, because the Jewish People do not need tangible images to connect to, and receive goodness from, Hashem. (Avnei Bareket)

(by Rabbi Shlomo Katz from Project Genesis at www.torah.org)



We are hoping to host Shabbat Hagadol meals in the Shul for both Friday night and Shabbat lunch (April 7th & 8th). We are estimating the price will be around \$16 per person/per meal (no reduced kids pricing). If you are interested, please contact Shmuel Tarshish ASAP via email at: samuel.a.tarshish@leidos.com with the approximate number of participants/meals.

Sale of Chometz forms are online at www.chabadshul.org and in the bins in the Shul lobby.

Deadline for giving these filled-in forms to Rabbi Kaplan is **Friday, April 7, 2017.**

Purchasing Matzoh can **ONLY** be done online at www.chabadshul.org.

The price is \$24 per pound and all orders **must be submitted by Sunday, March 19, 2017.**



We happily wish Mazel Tov to **Ethel and Eugene Fischer** on the **Birth of a Great Grandson**, born to their grandchildren Chana and Moshe Newnan in Israel.

Yahrzeits This Week:

Chaim Eisenberg 21 Adar - Saturday night/Sunday for father Avrohom Kopel ben Aryeh Laib HaCohen

SHUL DIRECTORY

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Davening and Shiurim Schedule

Friday, 3/17 — 19 Adar
 Shacharit — 7:00 a.m.
 Candles — 6:58 p.m.
 Minchah / Ma'ariv — 7:00 p.m.

Shabbat, 3/18 — 20 Adar
 Shacharit — 9:00 a.m.
 Sof Z'man Kriat Shema — 10:11 a.m.
 Berachot Gemara Shiur — 5:45 p.m.
 Minchah & Seudah Shilishit — 6:45 p.m.
 Ma'ariv — 7:59 p.m.

Sunday, 3/19 — 21 Adar
 Shacharit — 8:00 a.m.
 Minchah / Ma'ariv — 7:05 p.m.

Monday, 3/20 — 22 Adar
 Shacharit — 6:50 a.m.
 Minchah / Ma'ariv — 7:05 p.m.

Tuesday, 3/21 — 23 Adar
 Shacharit — 7:00 a.m.
 Minchah / Ma'ariv — 7:05 p.m.

Wednesday, 3/22 — 24 Adar
 Shacharit — 7:00 a.m.
 Minchah / Ma'ariv — 7:05 p.m.

Thursday, 3/23 — 25 Adar
 Shacharit — 6:50 a.m.
 Minchah / Ma'ariv — 7:05 p.m.

Friday, 3/24 — 26 Adar
 Shacharit — 7:00 a.m.
 Candles — 7:05 p.m.
 Minchah / Ma'ariv — 7:00 p.m.