

# The JFS Journal

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THE JFS JOURNAL: PURIM

Issue #3



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## **Purim:** The Story's Relevance

BY RONNIE LUKYANOV, EDITOR IN-CHIEF

Purim is many people's favorite holiday. The joy, fun, candy, costumes, celebrations, customs, and time with friends are very popular and what they think of when they think about Purim. It's fun, but that's not all there is to the holiday.

You're probably familiar with the story of Purim. But here's the thing: It's not just a story. It has many lessons inside it. For example, when Mordechai doesn't bow to Haman that teaches us the second of the ten commandments, Do Not Worship Anyone or Any God Except Hashem. Everything has a deeper meaning whether it's just a number or a whole speech. Yes, a number. A certain number in the story of Purim. 127.

127 is the number of countries Achashverosh ruled. Why is this so important? When a woman becomes queen, she also rules over the same land that the king does. Hashem thought it was right for Esther to rule over 127 countries because she is a descendant of Sarah, Avraham Avinu's wife who lived until she was 127 years old.

From Recipes and Reports to Dvar Torahs and Diaries, this issue of the JFS Journal is the perfect Purim paper. While we kept it short, so you can go back to (as I said before) fun, candy, costumes, celebrations, customs, and time with friends, it contains everything you need so lean back, grab your hamantaschen, and enjoy The JFS Journal: Purim 2018.

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## Vashtie's Diary

by Adina Furhang

Dear Diary...

Today was so exciting! My husband Achashverosh invited over 7 men from different kingdoms and they were all bragging about their wives. My husband said I was the prettiest wife ever though. He is a little drunk though & when he is drunk he does crazy things.

Yesterday I got some new exotic makeup & they are soooooo pretty! I got a new silk dress all the way from China and it feels so nice! Today I got from the delivery camel a lipstick from crushed beetles. I also got a rose essential oil face serum that makes my skin feel like silk.

I have this new servant & she won't admit it, but I know she is Jewish. I made her water the plants on Saturday, but she made up this petty excuse.

Oh, yay! I hear Achashverosh calling me- Whoa! What is that on my face & my dress! Is that a tail? Oh no! My husband is calling even louder now. What do I do? Oh, I know I'll tell him something mean so I won't have to go down. "I'm not coming down. You drink a shot glass of wine & you go crazy. My father could drink 100 glasses of wine & he'll be fine!"

You know what? Maybe I shouldn't have said that. Well know I really must go. Toodles!

## CHAG PURIM

Chag Purim, Chag Purim

Chag Gadol Leyehudim

Masechot, Ra'ashanim

Shirim Verikudim

Hava Narishah- Rash, rash, rash

Hava Narishah- Rash, rash, rash

Hava Narishah- Rash, rash, rash

Bara'ashanim

Chag Purim, Chag Purim

Zeh el zeh sholchim manot

Machmadim, Mamtakim

Tunifim Migdanot

Hava Narishah- Rash, rash, rash

Hava Narishah- Rash, rash, rash

## WHY DIDN'T MORDECHAI BOW TO HAMAN?

BY ELISHA KAHAN

When teachers present Megillat Esther, they usually review what רש"י writes about Haman. That is that Haman had objects of זרה זכודה on his robes. However, there is another question. The פסוק says:

וְכָל־עַבְדֵי הַמֶּלֶךְ אֲשֶׁר־בְּשַׁעַר הַמֶּלֶךְ כִּרְעִים וּמִשְׁתַּחֲוִים

which means that all the servants of the king bowed. But Mordechai was obviously not a servant or a slave of the king, so why should he bow to Haman?!

We see from here that a new law could be blown out of proportion without people even knowing it. Mordechai was reminding us that the rule was originally only for servants of the king. Haman told the king Achashverosh to destroy the Jews, because Mordecai broke an imaginary law! From this we learn that we shouldn't exaggerate to the point where people believe in falsehoods. This message is very topical today with the widespread phenomenon of "fake news" and false rumors. Let us all heed the words of the Megillah and the lessons of Mordechai. Don't exaggerate!

## BEST QUICK COSTUMES

**HAIRY POTTER:** Put on a long wig and an apron with clay on it.

**CEILING FAN:** Draw "Go, Ceiling, Go!" on your shirt.

**FACEBOOK:** Write the word book on your face.

**FORMAL APOLOGY:** Put on fancy clothes and write sorry on your forehead.

**FIFTY SHADES OF GREY:** Go to Home Depot and get 50 grey paint chips, and then tape them onto you.

**(GIRLS ONLY) TACO BELLE:** Put on a yellow dress and tape the Taco Bell logo to it.

**DUMBLEDDORA:** Put on a pink shirt, orange shorts, and a long white beard. Carry a wand and a map.

**BRIT-KNEE SPEARS:** Tape the British flag to your knee and put a triangular piece of cardboard on a stick as a spear.

**BEE-YONCE:** Wear Yellow and Black and write YONCE on your face.

**GINGERBREAD MAN:** Put on a red wig and hold a slice of bread.

**BERNIE THE DINOSAUR:** Dress up as Barney and tape a picture of Bernie Sanders onto yourself.

**Adult Costume:** No requirements.