

How can we truly rejoice this year?

Dani Eisenstock
Former Shaliach in Kansas City (2002-3)



Mi Shenichnas Adar Marbin Bsimcha!

This year the sentence has a whole new meaning. How can we truly celebrate Purim and Adar this year? So many people have suffered, we are not really supposed to get together and we cannot celebrate like we are used to. Perhaps, we can look at the true meaning of simcha from a different angle. In our Parsha, every person is called upon to donate to the mishkan. We all have something to contribute. We all have something we can add to the betterment of our nation.

In addition to Parshat Truma we will also read Parshat Zachor- remembering what Amalek did to us as we left Egypt. The Passuk preceding the story of Amalek's viscous attack says that Am Yisrael started doubting and asked: "does Hashem dwell within us?" "היש השם בקרבנו אם אין" this has to be the most ridiculous question! They just saw the ten plagues, the splitting of the sea, the clouds of glory. How can they ask- "does Hashem dwell within us"?

In our Parsha -Truma there is a similiar sentence ועשו לי מקדש ושכנתי בתוכם Create for me a sanctuary and hashem will dwell within us. Not within it - but rather within us. When everyone contributes from themselves and gives from themselves for the greater good then Hashem dwells within us.

Right before Amalek attacked us, Am Yisrael did not doubt hashem. They doubted themselves, they doubted their fellow Jews. When we doubt ourselves, Amalek can creep up and attack us from behind. Like Amalek Covid crept up behind and attacked our beloved elders the greatest leaders of Am Yisrael. Recently, Am Yisrael lost another great light- Rabbi Dr. Avraham J Twersky OB" M once said: "Self esteem is tied into sense of responsibility. The more we are aware of our strengths and abilities, the greater we have the obligation to fulfill them.

The true Simcha of Adar does not come from wine or a party. It comes from really having a sense of responsibility. When we look around the world and appreciate the thousands of shlichim who day and night are out there to spread the light of Am Yisrael and Torat Yisrael. When we look at the beautiful communities who open their hearts and homes to spread the light of Judaism in times that are not so simple that is the true simcha of Chodesh Adar.

Amalek tried to spread self-doubt, that inner voice that tells us that we are not good enough. We must wipe that away before we can celebrate Purim. On a national level, we must be proud of who we are and of our amazing nation. When we truly recognize and realize the beauty of the contributions of every person in Am Yisrael- Hashem truly dwells within us.

May we all merit in returning to Yerushalyim with joy together this Purim

comments: deisenstock@gmail.com