



SIMCHAT SHMUEL

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One of the most beloved traditions associated with the awesome day of *Purim* is the custom to dress in costume.

There have been many reasons suggested for our annual *Purim* masquerade. One particularly unique insight regarding this *minhag* was offered by the **Karmona Rebbe zy'a**.

The *Rebbe* points to a perplexing statement in the *Tikunei Zohar*, regarding the very nature of the holiday of *Purim*:

Yom HaKippurim (The day of atonements) should rather be understood as Yom K'Purim-a day like Purim..."

How exactly are we to understand this statement? Seemingly there is some mystical connection or parallel to be drawn between the sacred day of *Yom Kippur*, and the day of *Purim*, which most of us associate with utter joy and salvation.

Indeed the holy **Reb Yisrael of Rizhin zy'a**, famously interpreted this teaching as follows. If *Yom Kippur* is indeed a *yom K'Purim*, a day like *Purim*, then it must mean **that the lesser day is being compared to the greater day, that *Purim* is greater than *Yom Kippur*.**

The *Karmona Rebbe* cites the parallel to be drawn between these two days- *Yom Kippur* and *Purim* based on this teaching from the *Tikunei Zohar*. The *Rebbe* explains that on *Yom Kippur*, we ask one another for forgiveness. So too, *Purim* is a day meant to bring the Jewish people together in unity, a day to let go of any conflict and forgive one another.

However, the *Rebbe* taught, inevitably each of us have individuals in our lives for whom it may be difficult to look directly in the eye, to ask for forgiveness face to face.

Also for many of us, we may struggle with the ability to forgive **ourselves**, and that inability to let go of guilt we might feel for past mistakes, can become an impediment for spiritual growth.

The tradition to disguise ourselves, to don masks and costumes, makes it easier to look one another in the eye to forgive each other, and to look ourselves in the mirror and forgive ourselves as well!

Yehi Ratzon, as we don our *Purim* costumes, may we indeed be blessed to embrace this beautiful teaching.

Purim Sameach, A Freilichin Purim! ■

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