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Inviting the Light of Purim

Purim is known as one of the busiest days of the Jewish calendar year. There are so many mitzvot to do and so much activity throughout the day. Nevertheless, we are conscientious to

carve out time both on the eve of Purim and the next morning to fulfill the mitzvah of listening to the Megilah.

Indeed, one must meticulously listen to every word; a unique directive that applies only to *Megilat Esther* as opposed to all of the other *megilot*. More than simply telling the story of the Jews in Persia, the Megilah reading occupies a lofty place characterized by a powerful energy. How can we access this intensely strong *koach* as we hear the Megilah on Purim?

Rav Biderman in *Be'er HaChayim* quotes the *Kav Hayashar* where he discusses the tremendous potency present during the Megilah reading. He describes an exalted and holy world in Heaven that is only revealed to us once a year — the moments that we begin reading *Megilat Esther*. We recite the brachah, “*al mikra megilah* — about reading the Megilah.” *Mikra* means reading, but it can also mean to call or invite. This is a time when we call out to invite this incredible energy into our world with the hope that this great light will be revealed to us. It is crucial to contemplate the enormity of this moment and open oneself as a receptacle to receive this light. This is the deeper meaning when we respond “Amen!” to the brachah.

Rav Biderman further notes that this is also an invitation for each person to gather this energy into his or her life. Everyone has a tremendous wellspring

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of talents and gifts that have not yet been accessed or developed. The time of Megilah reading shines an extraordinary light of clarity, allowing these forces to come to the fore, enabling each of us to tap into their energy.

Rav Wolfson ז"ל explains that this is one of the reasons that the Megilah is left open during the entire reading, in contrast to the Torah reading on Shabbat and chag where the Torah scroll is covered between the *aliyot*, and only open to the section being read. The Megilah is never concealed, even during the noisemaking when Haman's name is said. The energy and light that emanates from the Megilah is from such a sublime source that its revelation spreads and spreads, impacting every person who listens to the Megillah. The Megillah embodies many levels of salvation and each word channels a "Purim angel" that brings deliverance and blessing that each person can access to achieve the *yeshu'ot* that he desires.

Because the energy at the time of Megillah reading is so exalted, Rav Pincus ז"ל suggests that one should spend time davening after hearing the Megillah reading and pour out one's requests to Hashem. These moments are an "*et ratzon*," a special time to take advantage of the tremendous energy of light and mercy that is found in the world. May all of our prayers and requests be answered *le'tovah* this Purim. ■

In memory of my father
Shmuel ben Chaim HaLevi ז"ל
Samuel Sevrinsky ז"ל
 whose yahrzeit is 16 Adar, March 5th
Rabbi Binenfeld's Zoom shiur
will be dedicated in his memory
on this day
Phil Sevrinsky



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