



## Thoughts on the Purim

Rabbi Menachem Wachsman

### THE "SECRET" WEAPON

When thezman הרשע received permission from thezman הרשע to annihilate the Jewish people, he sent out letters to all the provinces, **ב"ת פתשון** הכתב להנתק דת מרדש בכל מדינה ומדינה. The message explains that the letters didn't actually mention his plan to exterminate **בָּלְלִישָׁרָאֵל**. Rather, **המן** instructed the people **לְהַיוֹת** **בָּהָה**, "to be prepared for that day." The message in the letter was vague. It didn't say what the people should be ready for. Were the people to be ready for **להרוג**, to kill, or **לִיהְרֹג**, to be killed? The posters hanging around town didn't say what was going to happen.

Rav Zaitchik, in his sefer **קָוֶל**, explains that thezman הרשע wisely concealed the message that **ג"א** אדר would be designated to destroy **בָּלְלִישָׁרָאֵל**. He feared that if **בָּלְלִישָׁרָאֵל** would be informed of this sudden and shocking news as part of the letter, their reaction to this horrible decree would be strong. They would certainly be **מַתְעוּרָה** **תְּשׁוּבָה** **שְׁלִימָה** to the **הַקָּבָב** **הַחֲנָן**. They devised a plan to

## MTI Recent Happenings

Aaron M. Mazer  
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### CHEMISTRY CLUB

MTI started a chemistry club about two months ago. The group is led by Mr. Kozelov, our science and mathematics teacher. Recently, we experimented with something very cool - different color flames. We put different powders into multiple glass containers: potassium, sodium, strontium, copper, and boron. We first put potassium into a glass container with a tiny bit of alcohol and lit it on fire. The color flame created was slightly pink. We followed the same procedure for each powder creating a pure yellow color out of sodium (salt), a red flame from strontium, and green flames from both copper and boron. Afterwards, Mr. Kozelov showed us some very small strips of manganese and then, with extended tongs, placed one of the strips into a flame. The result was so bright and although it was only for a couple of seconds, we could barely even look straight at it.

The great thing about our chemistry club is that not only are the experiments really cool (like once

## Featured Torah Message

Gavin Kornblum  
11th Grade

"וְנוֹתַתْ אֶל־חֶשֶׁן הַמְשֻׁטָּט אֶת־  
הָאוּרִים וְאֶת־תְּמִימִים"

"You should put the Urim and the Tumim in the breastplate of judgment"

In this week's parsha we learn about the **חֶשֶׁן**, the breastplate, that the **כהן גָּדוֹל**, High Priest, wore. Inside of it, Moshe Rabbeinu placed a piece of parchment with **ה'**s special name on it. This parchment was called the **אוּרִים וְתְּמִימִים**.

The Vilna Gaon says that when Channah was davening in Shilo, Eli the Kohen Gadol saw her and asked the **אוּרִים וְתְּמִימִים** about her. The letters **ש, כ, ה**, lit up and Eli understood this to mean **שְׁכַרְתָּה**, meaning drunken woman. If he had been **דָן לְכֶךָ זָכוֹת**, he would have known that really the letters were indicating **כְּשָׂרָה**, meaning a worthy woman.

Similarly, in this week's parsha, **ה'** tells Moshe: **וְאַתָּה הַקְרֹב אֲלֵיךְ אֶת־אַהֲרֹן אֲחֵיךְ** meaning, "Bring Aharon your brother close to you." HaRav Henach Liebowitz, zt"l, quotes the Medrash Rabba which says that **ה'** was clearing

## Sparks of Mussar

R' Nosson Zvi [Finkel] was especially gracious to beggars who knocked on his door, especially to the handicapped or lowly, who are oppressed and bitter. He greeted them warmly, helped and encouraged them, and escorted them on their way.

R' Noach Flei was taking his leave of R' Nosson Zvi in order to set out for his yearly visit home, when R' Nosson Zvi asked him: "What would you do if, the moment you entered your house, happy to see your family, an ugly, dirty, disgusting-looking beggar would turn to you for help? Surely you would get upset that just at this moment he came to disturb you, but, being a generous person, you would give him something in order to be rid of him.

"But such is not what the halachah demands, for it is written: 'The wretched poor shall you bring home.' And our Sages taught: 'Let the poor be members of your household.' Even at the moment that you are happy with your family, you must see these unfortunate, wretched poor as members of your household and greet them with joy. Moreover, it is to them that you must turn your attention and care for them with love and friendship. Your family you will see every year when you go home, but who knows if you will ever meet those beggars again in your life."

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leave the letter vague, for if and when the Jewish people would eventually find out that they were the ones to be killed, it would be revealed slowly and gradually. The force of their reaction would then be dulled and the תפילה and תשובה would not be as strong. **המן** understood the power of the heart and with true intensity. He therefore tried to weaken their response as part of his ultimate plan.

This Purim, let us unite to utilize our "secret weapons" that were no secret to **המן**. Let us strengthen the awesome power of **תשובה** and **תפילה** and may we be zoche to merit **ישועות** and the ultimate geula. **ליהדים היהת אורה ושמחה ושלום ויקר כן תהיה לנו!**

we made a magnetic "monster"!) but each time we meet, the time is spent on labs and experimentation with no lecture. It's a great opportunity for learning science hands on and all the boys who are part of it truly enjoy having fun while learning. The experiments teach us a lot about how and why things work and we can't wait to learn more!

Aharon's name because Moshe still harbored a small doubt in his heart about if his brother had done the right thing at the time of the Golden Calf. Reb Henach then asks, how could it be that Moshe was not being **לכף זכות**? He answers that Moshe was definitely well versed in the **מצוות** of being **מצווה**, however his first impression wasn't allowing him to be 100% **לכף זכות**. So, **ה' נ** was telling him to be **done לכף זכות** completely and forgive his own brother. First impressions are very powerful, and are very hard to overcome!

We see from here the importance of being **done לכף זכות** - giving benefit of the doubt - and how strong a first impression can be, making it very difficult to be **done לכף זכות** properly. If this was even difficult for Moshe Rabeinu and Eli the Kohen, how much more so must we be careful to give everyone the benefit of the doubt.



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