



AWAKENING

Farbrengen – Purim, 5732-1972

The Megilla: Haman said to Achashverosh: "There is one nation scattered among the nations of your kingdom..."

The Sages: "Yeshno – There is one nation" can be read "Yashnu – The nation slept," the Jewish people were 'asleep.'

"Their observance was slumbering." They indulged in the royal feast; or according to another opinion they bowed to an idol – the worst form of idol-worship.

Yet, even Haman, who was an ardent Jew-hater and sought their shortcomings, had no choice but to recognize the truth.

The Jews did not—Heaven forbid— refuse to fulfill G-d's will. Rather, had they been 'awake,' they would surely observe Torah and Mitzvos. Haman said: Their present spiritual state however, is "resting."

If the Jews' enemy claimed only that they were asleep, surely it was not worse than that. He would only exaggerate their shortcomings – certainly not overstate their virtues!

The Megilla is teaching a lesson for every Jew. As stated, even a minor detail in the Megilla is a profound and magnificent lesson to every Jew:

When someone encounters another Jew, he must know that since he is the son of Avraham, Yitzchak and Yaakov, or she is the daughter of Sarah, Rivkah, Rachel and Leah, it is absolutely certain that their heart is open to Torah and Mitzvos.

His heart is awake to study Torah and observe its Mitzvos. It may be that only his heart is awake, and the external faculties which are covering his heart are asleep and do not allow the heart's desires to come into action – to study Torah and observe Mitzvos on a daily basis. His heart desires; but his external faculties are "asleep."

If you see someone asleep in a house which is on fire, no one will say that you shouldn't wake him, as "It's his private issue, and you shouldn't get involved." Because when he wakes up, you won't need to explain that he must escape from the house. He himself will know that this house is unsafe. But because he fell asleep, he was unaware of his surroundings.

Then, it is the sacred responsibility of those surrounding him to wake him.

You won't need to do any more than that. For, as Haman said: The Jews' Torah observance is "asleep." Any shortcomings in observing Mitzvos; their partaking in the royal feast, or their bowing to the statue, is only a result of their slumber.



And when G-d 'awoke;' in the words of the Megillah: "The sleep of the King of the universe was disturbed," it was mirrored by the awakening of Jewish souls below.

And "The Jews had light—Torah, gladness—they observed the festivals, joy—observed circumcision, and honor—Tefillin, to which the entire Torah is compared.

From everything in Torah, we must learn a lesson to our daily lives: When one encounters another Jew, and it is apparent that this person needs to improve— whether in observance of commandments between the Jew and G-d, or between the Jew and his fellow human —he may distance himself from this person, since his behavior is inappropriate.

The Megilla teaches that even Haman, the ardent Jew-hater stated that a Jew's inappropriate conduct is not intrinsic, rather he's in a spiritual slumber.

When you, or someone else, will wake him, there is no doubt that his conduct toward G-d and toward his fellow will improve. Moreover, this person, once awoken, may be even greater than the person who wakes him, for we never know what is in the heart of a person.

The 'awakened heart' of the slumbering person may well be more intense toward Torah and Mitzvos than the person waking him. When can we know this? Only when he will be woken.

One may hesitate to disturb someone else's sleep, for he is sound asleep, and is enjoying it— Torah says, he just fell into an unhealthy slumber! The Torah is "Our life and length of our days."

Concerning Mitzvos we are told, "Live by them." The life of a Jew is to put on Tefillin, as well as to observe all Mitzvos. So if he is lacking in observance, he is in an unhealthy slumber.

To say that "I should not disturb him," is harmful to him! A most sacred task when someone is in a spiritual slumber, is to awaken him at once! Certainly that person will eventually be grateful for it.

