



אור בישראל

A LIGHT FROM WITHIN ISRAEL

פרשת תצוה

ח' אדר תשפ"ה 8.3.25

1

This week's Torah portion is Parshat Tetzaveh, the eighth parsha in the book of Exodus. The parsha deals mostly with the garments of the Kohen Gadol (the High Priest). The Torah attributes great importance to dignified, even royal appearance, but we must note that we should not regard the garment more than the person wearing it... This is what our story deals with this week.

There are commentators who write that our "Kohen Gadol garments" today are our Shabbat clothes. On this holy day, one should dress more festively to express its uniqueness.

2

This Shabbat, the Shabbat before Purim, is called "Shabbat Zachor" (Shabbat of Remembrance). It is customary to go to the synagogue to hear the additional Torah reading, beyond the weekly parsha, which begins: "Remember what Amalek did to you on the way when you came out of Egypt..." Already during the Exodus, Amalek fought against us, and many years later - the wicked Haman in the Book of Esther who tried to kill all the Jewish people was a descendant of Amalek. This is an annual reminder of our eternal war against evil, which has not yet ended.

3

Our commentators explain that Amalek is not just an ancient nation. In a certain sense, he also symbolizes the enemy that is within our head and heart - everything that tries to disrupt, weaken, harm, and make us forget who we are and what we are supposed to be. This constant confusion and doubt is what we seek to erase.

4

And after Shabbat, an exciting week awaits us: the Fast of Esther, the holiday of Purim, and finally - Shushan Purim (Purim celebrations in Jerusalem).

5

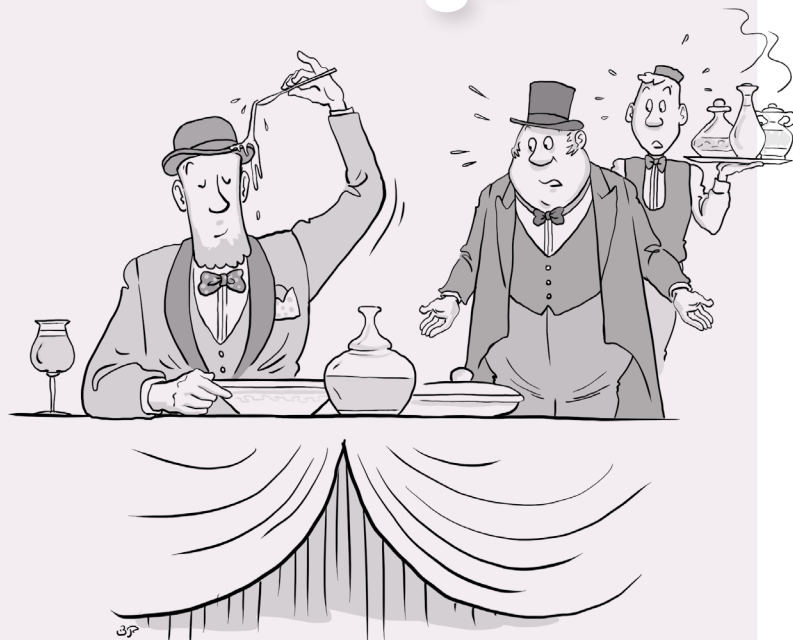
A STORY FOR SHABBAT

Enjoy your meal, necktie

Once a wealthy man, who lived in a small village, decided to hold a magnificent banquet at his house. All the people of the village got dressed in their fanciest clothing and lined up at the entrance to the wealthy man's house, eagerly awaiting the festive meal inside. Among the guests stood one man dressed in very casual clothes. The guards stationed at the entrance noticed this man's undignified appearance and refused to let him in. "Is this the way you arrive at the house of a famous rich man? You should be ashamed of yourself!" they shouted at him. The man returned to his house, removed his simple clothing and put on the most luxurious clothing he had in his closet: fancy shoes, a tailored suit, a new tie and a top hat. Then he headed back to the party. When the guards noticed him standing at the entrance, they quickly opened the gate, welcomed him inside, and rushed to find him the best seat at the banquet. When the first course, soup, was served, the man took a spoon and poured the soup over his pants. Then he took another spoon of soup and poured it into the sleeve of his jacket. The third time he poured soup onto his tie. Everyone at the party couldn't believe their eyes and some of them burst out laughing. Just as the man was pouring soup over his hat, the wealthy host hurried up to him and asked him in amazement: "What's the matter with you? Why are you pouring soup all over your clothes?" "It's very easy to explain," answered the guest. "I understand that in this house clothing is more important than people. When I arrived at this party an hour ago in simple clothing, I wasn't allowed to enter. But when I returned in my fancy clothes, I was welcomed with great honor. I came to the conclusion that it was not me, but my clothes that you invited to your party. So I thought, let my clothes eat and enjoy their meal..." (From the 'Ligdol' book series)

Food for Thought

What do the clothes we wear say about us and how do they express who we are on the inside?





FROM THE DIARY OF A CHEMED STUDENT

"The 10th Grade Play" - The Ulpanit's Most Hyped Event

The Ulpanit in Tveria (Tiberias) is a lovely school, and I'm very happy to study here. Among its many traditions, my favorite is the 10th Grade Play. This play is entirely organized by the 10th graders—they handle acting, props, scriptwriting, song recording, and even choosing the play! While they get some guidance from their teachers, at least 90% of the work is done by the students. What makes it special is that it's not just a regular school play—it's performed in a real theater! This tradition is exciting because it brings the 10th graders together to create something spectacular. Every student contributes, whether on stage or behind the scenes. I also love watching the project come together. This year, I was lucky to see the 10th-grade girls work on the songs, and they sounded amazing! I can't wait to watch my friends perform and see what they've created. It's hard to believe that next year, it will be my turn! Beyond the excitement, this project makes the experience meaningful and educational for everyone involved. Both our Parasha and the play teach us about teamwork, responsibility, and the beauty of creating something special with dedication and effort.

Noga Goren, 9th Grade, Ulpanit Tveria



דף הפרשה מוקדש לעילוי
נשמת החיילים הקדושים
מיכאל בן חמו ואייל טויטו הי"ד

BETWEEN PAIN AND HOPE: LEARNING TO LIVE IN THE LIGHT

"Hello Sivan. Our son Uri Mordechai, may his memory be blessed, was killed in battle on Simchat Torah.

Since that day, two words have taken on new meaning for us: 'Rise like a lion.' These are the first two words in our basic book of Jewish law, 'Shulchan Aruch,' describing how a person should rise in the morning. Our daily mission is to overcome the pain and get up each morning to a new day of work and action. As Shabbat approaches and as holidays come near, the challenge becomes more difficult, and as Purim approaches - the difficulty increases. This was THE holiday of our Uri. The joy this year is different, it is mixed with tears of longing, but we choose to try and see the light. From within the darkness, there is also light that has been revealing itself in the world since Simchat Torah. Uri taught us to see reality through a positive lense. The family is preparing to celebrate Purim and fulfill the four mitzvot of



the day (reading the Scroll of Esther, sending portions of food to friends, gifts to the poor, and the Purim feast). We will sit down for the meal with 'Uri's wine' on the table, hoping that Uri's spirit will accompany us and add light. It's important for us to tell our wonderful people: Joy is not revelry, not distraction and an escape from reality. It is a connection to eternity. It is part of the consolation for all of us. It is part of the victory over our enemies. And through the joy and tears, we pray that we will merit a brilliant victory, the return of our hostages to their families, and good news. Happy Purim. May we all continue to try to rise like a lion."

Around the Shabbat Table

- Do you think it's possible to feel two opposite emotions at the same time? Has it ever happened to you that you felt joy and sadness together?
- Uri taught his family "to see reality through a positive lense." Why do you think this is so important? How can this help us in our daily lives?
- How does working together on a big project help you develop teamwork skills?
- What do you think you can learn from creating something together, like the play, that you can't learn from regular school lessons?

