

DVAR TORAH

QUESTION: Why is the fast on the day before Purim called "Ta'anit Esther" – "the Fast of Esther"?

ANSWER: Though Achashveirosh originally agreed to Haman's plan to kill all the Jews on the 13th of Adar, he later instructed the Jews to defend themselves against the Persian armies. According to halacha, people defending themselves against enemies are forbidden to fast, so as not to weaken their strength on the 13th of Adar it was forbidden for any Jew to fast. Esther lived in the King's palace, and thus did not fear the armies. Hence, she was the only person able to fast while the Jewish people defended themselves against the Persians. Therefore, the day is known as Ta'anit Esther.

HALACHAH

if one is a violent person he should not get drunk on Purim as it may lead to extreme behavior.

JOKES and RIDDLES

- Why did the Hamantaschen go to therapy?
Because it had fillings inside!
- What did the Hamantaschen say to the tray?
"Don't crumble under pressure!"
- Why did the Hamantaschen go to school?
Because it wanted to be a smart cookie!
- Why did Queen Esther make a great detective?
Because she always knew what Haman was up to!

REBBE STORY

In the 1960s, a young boy in Israel was involved in a serious accident, leaving him in a coma. Doctors gave little hope for his recovery. Seeking a miracle, his parents traveled to the Lubavitcher Rebbe in New York for his blessing. The Rebbe listened compassionately and wrote a letter to God on the family's behalf. He instructed them to place the letter in their son's hand back in Israel. Following the Rebbe's guidance, they did so.

Shortly after the letter was placed in the boy's hand, he began to show signs of improvement. Slowly, he emerged from the coma and eventually fully recovered.

עלִית נסמך לאה בת מרדכי ודבורה לאה בת חיים ארון

GAME

U	W	L	E	E	G	B	I	E	L	Y	V	G	E	U	Y	V	W	P	P	E	A	H	V	E	D	
A	Y	H	S	H	U	A	N	S	X	P	O	X	I	C	P	C	Y	T	G	Z	R	G	T	N	P	
T	I	H	I	L	S	G	D	T	U	D	H	W	E	G	T	L	W	X	K	B	R	S	N	Q	E	
T	O	A	U	J	Y	J	Z	H	S	B	Y	V	F	P	O	B	R	V	V	P	G	D	Q	B	R	
F	O	B	H	B	H	R	J	E	Z	M	E	G	I	L	L	A	H	S	C	I	S	O	L	U	Z	
I	J	P	Y	C	C	F	M	R	G	Y	T	J	R	S	E	N	D	T	A	X	D	H	F	L	R	
G	K	O	G	B	E	W	Y	C	K	T	Y	B	Q	I	H	Z	R	F	C	I	Q	I	A	D	L	
T	U	X	O	U	V	D	D	T	E	Z	D	D	T	P	L	I	J	L	J	J	N	G	C	Y	G	
V	K	J	M	C	C	C	R	G	Q	V	M	B	S	B	S	B	O	H	S	G	O	R	H	A	U	Z
C	G	G	N	X	R	Q	U	O	K	Q	O	H	P	S	P	I	Z	A	Z	G	C	P	T	L	I	
P	P	T	H	A	M	A	N	N	M	M	X	H	O	W	O	V	K	Y	E	P	L	S	C	M	U	
K	R	C	L	P	T	X	Z	Y	N	K	N	D	L	O	H	E	U	S	S	U	A	G	T	H	P	
U	T	B	B	U	G	Y	F	Y	Z	D	K	I	X	F	S	R	I	O	Z	E	M	A	M	O	F	
L	Z	S	E	W	P	O	W	G	M	C	K	V	F	H	H	A	M	S	F	Z	A	J	P	V	J	
E	W	M	I	J	V	Q	O	J	P	B	D	R	G	P	X	N	T	B	B	Z	C	J	J	T	G	
T	F	R	S	E	M	N	E	P	U	F	E	E	D	O	S	L	A	Q	Z	Y	H	C	L	S	S	
T	R	B	S	U	S	V	C	D	S	O	Y	O	W	A	X	Q	U	F	Q	V	A	I	J	X	H	
E	L	X	I	T	G	K	X	I	U	I	T	H	P	N	C	S	W	U	R	F	S	M	U	X	Q	
I	Q	T	A	Q	R	T	C	H	A	R	V	O	N	A	H	I	J	W	I	R	H	Y	Y	Q	D	
Y	P	X	H	M	M	U	N	H	L	V	H	R	L	H	R	G	C	R	E	H	V	A	F	X	C	
Y	D	V	K	U	X	Z	N	P	C	N	Z	O	A	C	C	N	J	O	S	M	A	A	W	P	A	
N	E	A	O	O	G	K	L	W	G	K	M	E	D	U	Z	T	A	E	C	H	R	J	H	F	N	
K	A	X	J	P	O	V	E	Z	R	B	I	P	H	M	K	R	R	U	R	W	O	M	T	N	C	
R	S	V	Y	T	I	R	A	H	C	M	I	Y	B	A	G	E	F	A	X	P	S	O	K	O	C	
I	M	N	D	M	G	A	N	K	N	E	H	R	B	M	Z	O	L	R	A	B	H	K	Q	L	U	
F	Y	H	U	G	J	J	Y	M	I	L	H	O	T	B	S	B	V	G	X	Y	E	O	F	O	K	

Achashveirosh: Mordechai: Charvonah: Gift:
Mamuchan: Megillah:

Charity: Esther: Zeresh: Grager: haman: feast:

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THE HEART OF THE MATTER

