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By the Hakham  
Rabbi Ya'aqob Menashe

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## Who Should Use a Kasher Meghillah?

Even though we say that young children should be brought to hear the Meghillah being read, very small children should not be brought, as mentioned by the Maghen Abraham, because they confuse those who are listening to the reading.

In truth, it is appropriate for every man to have his own Kasher Meghillah, and to read quietly together with the Hazzan. The reason is that we are obligated to hear the reading by the Hazzan, but because of the noise and the confusion with the banging of the children's (and adult's) feet, people sometimes do not hear the reading properly. That is why each person should have his own Meghillah to read from. Women and girls should, ideally, also have their own Kosher Meghillah especially if they are unable to hear the reading properly in the women's section for whatever reason.

It is proper for whoever is able to read Hebrew and afford to buy a Meghillah to do so and use it during the reading.

(See Kaf HaChayyim 689:27)



מדרש בן איש חי  
Midrash BEN ISH HAI

## Terumah: G-d Provided the Healing Before the Sin of the Golden Calf

"וְזֹאת הַתְּרוּמָה אֲשֶׁר תִּקְחוּ מֵאֲתָם זָהָב וְכֶסֶף וְנִחְשֵׁת" This is the offering that you shall take from them, gold, silver and copper" (Shemoth 25:3).

Gold is the first item that is mentioned in connection with the donations for the Mishkan (Tabernacle). This is to hint to us that the sin of the golden calf, which was made out of gold, had already been forgiven. That is one of the reasons why it is mentioned first. In the same vein, in Parashath Emor, it speaks about when an ox, a sheep, or a goat is born (Wayyiqra 22:27), we see that an ox (the parent of a calf) is mentioned first, for the same reason.

This commandment of bringing the donations to the Mishkan, was given the day after Yom Kippur, whereas the sin of the golden calf was committed before Yom Kippur (on the 17th of Tammuz). However, the Torah mentions this commandment before it speaks about the sin of the golden calf. Why did it reverse the order?

The paths of the Torah are peaceful ones. The Torah wanted to specifically show that the Mishkan, which was the atonement for the sin of the golden calf, was in place before it recorded the sin. This is the attribute of the Holy One Blessed be He, who always brings the healing before the blow (Meghillah 13b).

(See Rabbenu Bahya, Parashath Terumah)

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## 7th of Adar. Moses Spoke & the Entire Camp Heard

When Moshe Rabbenu, 'a"h, passed away on the 7th of Adar, at the age of 120, he was still in possession of all his faculties, the way he was when he was a younger man. From Rosh Hodesh Shebat, just 5 weeks before he turned 120, till the 7th of Adar, when he passed away, he addressed the Jewish people.

When it says, **אֵלֶּה הַדְּבָרִים אֲשֶׁר דִּבֶּר מֹשֶׁה אֶל-כָּל-יִשְׂרָאֵל** "These are the words that Moses spoke to all Israel" (Debarim 1:1), we must understand that he spoke to more than 1.2 million people. There were no microphones or the like in the wilderness. He gathered all of Israel and it was a great miracle that every single person in the entire camp heard him.

In addition to being almost 120 years old and there being a huge amount of people, we know that he had a speech impediment (Kebad Peh), yet he communicated to all the people. The holy Zohar tells us that the Shekhinah (G-d's holy presence) was speaking from his throat.

(See Dibrei Mordekhai, Parashath Debarim)

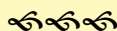
## Giving Priority to Mattanoth La-ebyonim

It is preferable for a person to increase the amount he gives as Mattanoth La-ebyonim (gifts for the poor) on Purim, rather than to increase the amount of Mishlowah Manoth he sends to his friends, or to add to his Se'udath Purim (festive meal).

The reason is that there is no greater or more glorious happiness than when one gladdens the hearts of the poor, orphans, widows and converts, because one who gladdens the hearts of the unfortunate is likened to the Shekhinah (G-d's holy presence).

This is because even though G-d dwells in high places, He is also with the one who is of lowly spirit, as it says in Yeshayahu (57:15), *to revive the spirit of the humble and to revive the hearts of the oppressed.*

(See Kaf HaChayim 694:5)



## Women's Corner - by Rabbanith Ruth Menashe 'a"h

### **הַדָּסָה הִיא אֶסְתֵּר** "Hadassah is Esther" (Esther 2:7), Part 1

Though not commonly used, Queen Esther's original name was Hadassah. The name "Hadassah", which is derived from the word Haddas (myrtle), is known for its unique fragrance, and is used on Friday nights and for Habdala on Saturday nights. The myrtle leaves, however, give their most distinct fragrance when they are crushed and rubbed.

Did you ever wonder how diamonds are formed? Apparently, diamonds (which are considered to be one of the most exquisite gems in the world) are crystals of pure carbon that form under extreme heat and crushing pressure beneath the surface of the earth! Pressure and immense heat is necessary for the formation of diamonds.

When we look closely at the life of Esther, the heroine of the Meghilla, we can perhaps understand the deep connection between the meaning of her name, Hadassah, and her essence. Like the crushed myrtle, Esther's hard life in the palace brought forth her self sacrifice and uncompromising dedication to her people.

(To be continued)