



The Joy of Torah - For Life

## **Parshas Pekudei**

**Shmuz by Rabbi Chaim Juni**

**Written over by Shmuli Stern**

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The Gemara in Megilla (Daf 12) says that when the goyim eat and drink they talk about matters of emptiness, like by the party of Achashveirosh, they were fighting about which women in the kingdom were the prettiest and Achashveirosh said - “my wife is the prettiest!”, and he went to request that Vashti appear before everyone unclothed in order to prove his point.

It seems so bizarre. Achashveirosh was the king, he had the most power, and the most wealth and everything over everyone, but he still had the need to compete and prove his wife was the prettiest! And it obviously wasn't a fair competition. They can't argue with him once she comes out because he'll just execute everyone who does argue. And yet Achashveirosh has her come out unclothed to take away the unfair advantage of royal clothing and cosmetics even though the competition was completely rigged to begin with!

We see from here that Achashveirosh couldn't just have the knowledge that she's the prettiest. He needed to know that everyone else agrees with him as well! And that's despite the fact that everyone's agreement is complete sheker because it wasn't even a real competition with everyone having an equal chance!

We see from here how crazy and extreme this need for honor goes. Achashveirosh was literally acting like a crazy illogical madman to pursue honor without thought or logic.

The need for honor never stops!