



The Joy of Torah - For Life

Parshas Tzav

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The Gemara in Megillah 15b asks why Esther invited Haman to her party with Achashveirosh. (The Ain Yakov explains that the question is why Esther made 2 parties and invited Haman twice - which makes the points outlined below even more astounding!) The answer in the Gemara given by Reb Shimon ben Menasya is so that Hashem would feel something and make a miracle for the Jews to save them. Rashi has 2 peshatim in what this means. 1. Hashem will see that Esther is becoming close with the enemy of the Jews and He will therefore “need” to make a miracle. 2. Hashem will see that Esther needs to flatter a wicked person and disgrace her honor and He will therefore “need” to make a miracle to defend her honor.

Let’s discuss his second pshat first. That’s why Hashem would save the Jews?! They were all davening and fasting and doing Teshuva, and the lives of every man, woman and child were on the line, and for that Hashem wouldn’t save them?! But throw in a factor of Esther’s disgrace and that would push it over the edge that Hashem will save them?!

We see from here how the degrading of ourselves, even though it was a one-time thing for the greatest cause, is so impactful and meaningful. Thus is the astounding greatness of man and by extension the honor that is due to him! That factor can be the deciding factor in “influencing” Hashem into saving the Jewish people!

The 1st answer in Rashi is explained by the Maharsha as saying that by Esther exhibiting the desperation of Klal Yisrael by inviting Haman, she was showing Hashem that they had hit rock bottom and then Hashem would “need” to make a miracle because look at what Esther is being forced to do... Hashem knows all the facts of their desperation and even of course knows what Esther is trying to do. But it seems Hashem’s love for us is so great that the action of desperation by Esther can make all the difference!