



A Purim Resource . . .

A Concise Guide to the Proper Observance of Purim



by Ken and Lois Goldrich



The mask contains the full Megillat Esther text, and was designed by Israeli artist Michal Meron.



To Help Enjoy This Booklet An Explanation of the Special Terminology

The Talmud describes various levels of observance for some of the *mitzvot*.

Stam - the basic requirement to fulfill a *mitzvah*

Mehadrin – a more rigorous (or higher) method of fulfilling a *mitzvah*

Mehadrin Min ha'Mehadrin – an even more rigorous (or higher) method of fulfilling a *mitzvah*.

So for example the Talmud in Shabbat discusses the *mitzvah* of lighting the *chanukiyah* on Chanukah:

Our Rabbis taught: The commandment of Chanukah requires one light per household; the zealous (**Mehadrin**) kindle a light for each member of the household; and the extremely zealous (**Mehadrin Min ha'Mehadrin**) -- Beit Shammai maintain: On the first day eight lights are lit and thereafter they are gradually reduced [by one each day]; but Beit Hillel say: On the first day one is lit and thereafter they are progressively increased. **Babylonian Talmud, Tractate Shabbat, page 21b**

More simply:

Stam - light one candle each night per household

Mehadrin – light one candle each night for each person in a household.

Mehadrin Min ha'Mehadrin – light one candle the first night, two candles the second night, etc., for each person in the household.

What follows is some “Purim Torah” that expands on this concept. The material in this booklet was written several years ago by friends of KCT, Lois and Ken (z”l) Goldrich.

A freilichen Purim!! Enjoy!!!



A PURIM RESOURCE
from
LOIS & KEN GOLDRICH

There are innumerable guides to the weekly observance of *Shabbat* and a multitude of resources detailing the laws and customs – including the numerous stringencies – of *Pesah*. Yet little attention has been paid to *Purim*. There is one authoritative treatise, which we are in the process of translating, editing and preparing for publication. Until that time, however, we have prepared this brief summary for your edification (scriptural citations have been eliminated for the sake of brevity).

This particular guide describes the various practices of *Purim* and, for each, provides basic and enhanced levels of observance. These levels are referred to as (i) *Stam*, (ii) *Mehadrin*, and (iii) *Mehadrin Min ha'Mehadrin*. For those who are unfamiliar with the terms but are patrons of Starbucks, think (i) tall, (ii) grande, (iii) vente – i.e., (i) adequate, (ii) more than adequate, (iii) for the truly serious.

We hope this guide enhances your *Purim* observance.

קיצור שמירת פורים כהלכתו
Concise Guide to the
Proper Observance of Purim

ע"י הרב גלן פידיץ' (י"א גלן ליבט)
Attributed to Rabbi Glenn Fidich (others say Glenn Livet)

Preparations for *Purim* should begin immediately after *Tu b'Shvat*. In a regular year, this provides one month and in a leap year [Ed. Note: like 5763] two months. The two principal items that demand your attention are preparation of the home and, once the home is prepared, the baking of *hamentaschen*.

KASHERING THE HOME FOR PURIM. Just as *hametz* must be disposed of prior to *Pesah*, so too must we remove certain prohibited foodstuffs prior to *Purim* (no later than one hour prior to the beginning of the fast on *Ta'anit Esther*). The main categories of food to be eliminated are lean protein sources, whole grains, non-alcoholic juices, low fat dairy products and, most particularly, vegetables (though some permit avocados because of their high level of fat). These foods are prohibited because it is well known that they do not add to our *simhah* but, rather, detract from it.

STAM- Forbidden foods may be hidden from view, e.g., in a sealed cabinet – for it is well known that even the sight of a salad (for example) may cause one to be depressed when eating a chocolate bar.

MEHADRIN - Forbidden foods must be disposed of by burning.

MEHADRIN MIN HA'MEHADRIN - The truly scrupulous move from their usual residence to a specially designated *Purim* house which has no association with tragedy or sorrow. This house is called a *Bet Simḥah*.

HAMENTASCHEN. These are three-sided stuffed baked goods. They may be either yeast or cookie dough and are filled with sweet things.

STAM - Mass produced and made by machine.

MEHADRIN - Produced in small batches at home or in a bakery.

MEHADRIN MIN HA'MEHADRIN - Made one-by-one, these are known as *shmurah hamentaschen*. Prior to making each *hamentasch*, those involved in its preparation (three people make each *hamentasch* – a roller, a filler and a baker) must each yell "*l'hayim*", quickly drink a single shot of scotch (some permit vodka), and recite *l'shem simḥas purim* before each cycle (a cycle involves the preparation of one *hamentasch*). While the shapes tend to be irregular, these are prized by the very scrupulous.

PURIM DAY

Once the preparations have been made and the fast completed, we reach the joyous day of *Purim*. While it is true that the entire month of *Adar* is a time of *simḥah* (*mi'senikhnas Adar, marbim b'simḥah* - When *Adar* comes in, our joy is increased), the day of *Purim* is the day of our greatest joy. We have several *mitzvot* which are observed on the day of *Purim*. The purpose of each is to increase our happiness. Each *mitzvah* (a word which itself begins with the hebrew letter מ - *mem*) begins with a מ - *mem*, to remind us that the day is m-m-m good.

MEGILAH – מגילה

STAM- The *megillah* is read in the evening and the morning with feet stamped at the mention of Haman's name.

MEHADRIN - The *megillah* is read in the evening and the morning, with the reader using different voices for each character and using graggers at the mention of Haman's name.

MEHADRIN MIN HA'MEHADRIN - The *megillah* is read in the evening and the morning, with the reader changing masks and using different voices for each character and using air horns at the mention of Haman's name.

MISHLOAH MANOT – משלוח מנות

STAM - The basic *mitzvah* requires sending at least 2 prepared foods to one person. Since the foods must each have a different *brakhah* (blessing) a *hamentasch* and box of raisins is recommended.

MEHADRIN - A dozen *hamentaschen*, fresh fruit, and grape juice.

MEHADRIN MIN HA'MEHADRIN - A wicker picnic basket with china service for 4, sterling flatware and crystal goblets along with a bottle of wine, cheese, fresh (seasonal) fruit, freshly baked bread and a dozen *hamantaschen*.

MASHKEH – משקה [ALCOHOLIC DRINKS]

One must imbibe alcoholic beverages on *Purim*. The question is, of course, how much.

STAM - One must drink just a little more than one is accustomed to. Thus, if one does not normally drink during the week, even a single glass of wine will suffice.

MEHADRIN - Since this is a holiday of *simhah*, one should drink at least as much as is consumed at the *Pesah seder*, that is, four cups of wine.

MEHADRIN MIN HA'MEHADRIN - We refer not just to *simhah* but, rather, *marbim b'simhah*, multiplying our happiness. This implies that we should not drink 4 cups of wine but, rather, 40 cups of wine.

MISHTEH – משתה

This is the festive meal (סעודת פורים). If one combines the instructions provided above for *mishloah manot* and *mashkeh*, you will get the idea as to how to fulfill this *mitzvah*.

MATZAH – מצה [SORRY – WRONG HOLIDAY]

M'SHUGAH – משגע

One must act irresponsible and foolish on *Purim*.

STAM - Wear a silly hat all day.

MEHADRIN - Wear a full costume all day.

MEHADRIN MIN HA'MEHADRIN - Support Republican tax cuts.

MATANOT L'EVYONIM – מתנות לאביונים

One must give gifts to the poor (i.e., *tzedakah*) on *Purim* so that they too can be happy. How much should we give?

STAM - Give a little

MEHADRIN - Give a little more.

MEHADRIN MIN HA'MEHADRIN - Give a lot more

WE ARE NOT KIDDING ABOUT THE LAST ONE.

NOR ARE WE KIDDING WHEN WE SAY

חג פורים שמח

A HAPPY AND JOYOUS PURIM

א פרייליכן פורים

LOIS & KEN GOLDRICH