

March 23rd, 2018/7th of Nisan, 5778

Dear chevreh,

Next week we will experience the full moon of Nisan which brings the holiday of Passover. Last month we experienced the full moon of Adar, on which Purim fell. What is the relationship between Purim and Pesach?

First of all, Jewish law codes and commentaries teach that thirty days before Pesach, we are to begin learning the laws of the holiday. (Shulchan Aruch, Orach Chaim 429:1/Mishneh Brura). Thirty days before Pesach puts us at Purim. Secondly, the Talmud teaches us that in a leap year, when an extra month of Adar is added to the Hebrew calendar, Purim is celebrated in the second month of Adar so that the redemption from Haman and the redemption from Pharaoh will be celebrated in consecutive months. (Megila 6b)

Bolstering this idea, the Ramban, on a commentary on Shemot (13:16), teaches that from the great and obvious miracles, a person should deduce and recognize the hidden miracles, which are the basis of the entire Torah. Pesach, the anniversary of overt miracles, must be connected to Purim, the holiday of hidden miracles, where God's name is not even mentioned.

Finally, Michael L. Kagan, who wrote the *Holistic Hagaddah* (Urim Publications, 2004), which will be quoted in the KHN Community Seder this year, writes, "The month between Purim and Pesach can be juxtaposed with the month before Rosh HaShanah, six months away." He teaches that unlike Elul, where the main question is, "How well have I been living my life?", during this month we should be asking, "Do I want to live? Am I ready to be brought out of Mitzrayim - the place of the living dead?"

The Torah teaches us that we must remember that we were slaves in Egypt. The Hagaddah demands even more than remembering, that "in each generation, each person is obligated to see himself or herself [*lirot et atzmo*] as though he or she personally came forth from Egypt." This is not always easy to do. Rabbi Jill Jacobs explains how this is possible: "By using the story of the Exodus as a framework for exploring our own personal liberation struggles or current political struggles, we can come to see ourselves as participants in the continuing journey toward freedom." (<https://www.myjewishlearning.com/article/i-was-redeemed-from-egypt/>)

In this last week between Purim and Pesach, let us physically, intellectually and spiritually prepare for Passover and the liberation which we as a people as well as our individual selves are being asked to experience. Let us become aware of both hidden and overt miracles in our lives.

Sending hopes for a powerful and meaningful experience for those who are participating in March for Our Lives tomorrow locally, or in Washington, as we attempt to end gun violence and mass shootings in our schools.

I look forward to seeing you this evening for services at 7:00 PM and learning with Julie Stockler at 7:45 PM.

****Please sign up for the KHN Community Seder!**

Shabbat shalom,

Rabbi Diana