



SIMCHAT SHMUEL

BY RABBI SAM SHOR

Program Director, OU Israel Center

This Friday and Shabbat, are the 14th and 15th of *Adar Rishon*, also referred to as *Purim Katan*. Our Chazal and subsequent *poskim* taught that though we refrain from reciting *tachanun*, from fasting or offering a eulogy on these days of *Purim Katan* and *Shushan Purim Katan*, the mitzvot associated with *Purim*, (*Kriat HaMegila*, *Matanot LaEvyonim*, *Mishloach Manot*), remain specific to *Purim* which is closer to the month of *Nisan*, in *Adar Bet*. However many authorities still attach particular significance to this day of *Purim Katan*.

Reb Leib of Litchov z'l, served as the official *badchen*, a combination of entertainer and master of ceremonies in the Chasidic court of the holy **Ohev Yisrael**, the **Apter Rebbe zy'a**. During *Adar Rishon* of one particular leap year, he shared the following entertaining insight.

A *meuveret* (a pregnant, expectant mother) gives birth to a *katan*- a small baby. A pregnant woman gives birth to a small child, a pregnant animal gives birth to a pup or cub, so what does a *shana meuveret* (a leap year) produce? *Purim Katan!*

The **Lubavitcher Rebbe zy'a**, in a special *sicha* for *Purim Katan* in 5746, described *Purim Katan* as a special guest who comes to visit us.

Once every few years we are given a special visit. Every day of the year has its own unique quality, and when a Jew is told about the special character of a particular day, it encourages him to accomplish more on

that day. The day of Purim Katan should be viewed as a precious guest. Frequent guests deserve polite attention and hospitality, but when a guest arrives, who has not come for a long time, then that guest deserves special attention. In the nineteen-year cycle of regular years and leap years we have nineteen Purims, but only seven Purim Katans. So, when Purim Katan comes, we truly have an infrequent and rare guest which deserves special attention...

Purim Katan, although it may be "small," certainly has something important to contribute. By coming first, Purim Katan opens the gate and makes it easier to follow through with the Divine service of Purim later on. It also provides the opportunity for Purim to introduce new aspects, subsequent to, and in addition to the theme of Purim Katan. In a sense, it serves as a training day for Purim...

How exactly should we understand this idea from the *Lubavitcher Rebbe, zy'a*, that *Purim Katan* is a day to train and prepare ourselves for Purim?

Rabbi Avraham Schorr, shlita, explains that although the four *mitzvot* of Purim are not observed on *Purim Katan*, there is one important aspect of Purim that is inherent in both *Purim Katan* and Purim- the unique power of *tefila* which our Sages have prescribed to Purim, is equally present on *Purim Katan*, and perhaps since we do not have those other *mitzvot* to focus our attention on as well, the day of *Purim Katan* has an even greater capacity for us to harness that *koach hatefila*.

Yehi Ratzon, as we welcome that special guest and commemorate this unique day of *Purim Katan*, may we merit to channel that capacity for *tefila*, and may it indeed serve as a day to prepare us spiritually for the incredible day of *Purim*, and the *achdut* that is manifested through its associated *mitzvot*, and the *yeshuot* that will *B'Ezrat Hashem* will be bestowed upon this world on Purim through the *koach hatefila*. ■



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