

THE LAST WORD ON JOY

פורים קטן The Minor Purim

An analysis of the Code of Jewish Law's treatment of Purim Katan - the Minor Purim observed in a leap year, as is the case this year - reveals the nature of joy at its most sublime.

SOURCES

1. *Final Halacha of The Code of Jewish Law's Orach Chaim, Siman 697:*
On the 14th and 15th of Adar 1 - Purim Katan - we do not recite the confessional supplications nor chapter 20 of psalms. Eulogies and fasting are forbidden. . . Some authorities maintain that one is obligated to feast and rejoice, however this is not the custom. Nonetheless, one ought add to one's meal somewhat . . . (as the verse states in Mishlei 15.15): "He who is of good-heart is **perpetually** feasting".
וטוב לב, משתה תמיד.
2. *Brachot 12:A*
Everything follows the conclusion.
הכל הולך אחר החתום.
3. *Rama, beginning of Orach Chaim:*
I **perpetually** place G-d before me. (Tehillim 16.8)
שיויתי ה' לנגדי תמיד.
4. *Ki Tisa 29:38*
Two each day as a **perpetual** ascent-offering.
שנים ליום עולה תמיד.
5. *Megillah 7:B, Orach Chaim 695*
It is a mitzvah to magnify (increase in) the Purim repast.
A person is obligated to imbibe on Purim to the point that he cannot distinguish . . .
והיית אך שמח.
6. *Devarim 15:16, Yom Tov prayers and Kiddush re Sukkot*
And you shall be nothing but joyous.
Sukkot (especially Simchat Torah): זמן שמחתינו - The season of our Rejoicing.

7. *Rambam Hilchos Lulov/Sukkot*

The joy that one ought have when performing a mitzvah is a great 'avodah'.

8. *Mishna Brachot Chapter 2*

First one must accept the yoke of Heaven and afterwards the yoke of Mitzvot.

9. *Likutei Torah Bechukotai 43:3*

Mitzvah means connection.

מצוה לשון צוותא והיבור

10. *Orach Chaim, Rema Siman 495*

The custom is to have the Purim meal after Mincha.

11. *Ta"Z ibid*

One should in fact make a great feast and invite guests on Purim Katan.

12. *Avodah Zarah 35A, Yerushalmi Brachot 1:4*

The words of the Sages are more precious for us than the words of Torah.

13. *Magen Avraham ibid re final words of the Rema:*

... in the joy of the commandments of our G-d, to bring about the fulfilment of the prophecy:
(Tehillim 126.2) Then our mouths will be filled with mirth and laughter.