



ALL ABOUT PURIM

THE STORY OF PURIM HOLDS OUT THE HOPE THAT,
NO MATTER HOW BAD THE CIRCUMSTANCES,
THINGS WILL TURN OUT WELL IN THE END.

FIVE FUN FACTS!

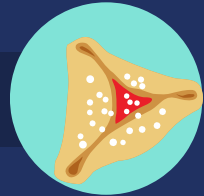


1. WE MAKE NOISE

THE VILLAIN OF PURIM, HAMAN, IS SO REVILED THAT WHENEVER HE IS MENTIONED DURING THE TRADITIONAL READING OF THE STORY OF ESTHER, OR THE "MEGILLAH", EVERYONE SHOUTS AND USES NOISEMAKERS TO DROWN OUT THE SOUND OF HIS NAME.

2. WE EAT TRIANGLE COOKIES

A TRADITIONAL PURIM TREAT, HAMANTASCHEN, IS ACTUALLY DESIGNED TO REPRESENT THE TERRIBLE HAMAN AND HIS THREE-CORNERED HAT, SPEAKING OF FOOD, IT IS CUSTOMARY TO FAST (REFRAIN FROM EATING) DAWN-TO-NIGHTFALL ON THE DAY BEFORE PURIM.





3. WE WEAR COSTUMES

IT IS TRADITIONAL TO WEAR MASKS AND COSTUMES TO CELEBRATE PURIM. SOME SAY IT IS BECAUSE ESTHER MASQUERADED AS A NON-JEW AND DRESSED UP AS A QUEEN. ESTHER ALSO HID HER ASSERTIVENESS AND HER STRENGTH UNTIL SHE HAD NO OTHER CHOICE.

4. WE GIVE CHARITY & EXCHANGE GIFTS

PURIM IS ALSO MARKED BY ACTS OF CHARITY ("MATANOT L'EVYONIM" IN HEBREW) AND SENDING BASKETS OF TREATS ("MISHLOACH MANOT" IN HEBREW) TO FRIENDS AND FAMILY.





5. WE CELEBRATE A "SHERO"

PURIM CELEBRATES THE STORY OF ESTHER, A JEWISH HEROINE WHO SAVED HER PEOPLE FROM A DESTRUCTION IN ANCIENT PERSIA. TODAY, JEWISH COMMUNITIES MARK THE ANNIVERSARY OF HER BRAVERY WITH JOYOUS PARTIES, CHARITY, AND GIFTS.

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