

Pinchas / פִּנְחָס

The Day We Saw the Queen

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Toras Avigdor Junior

Adapted from the teachings
of Rav Avigdor Miller zt"l

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The girls sat up even straighter in their seats as the recess bell rang softly at Beis Yaakov of Pudleshire.

"Isn't today going to be splendid?" said Rivky, pouring herself a cup of mid-morning tea, and passing the piping hot bone china teapot to Suri.

"Oh it will be just dandy," agreed Suri, gently sipping her tea and passing her tray of scones around to Rivky and the other girls.

"I must say, I'm a bit flummoxed by the fuss," Miri chimed in, gently applying marmalade to her scone. "We mustn't get our headbands all up in a tizzy just because an old lady is visiting Pudleshire."

"An old lady???" The other girls looked askance. "We are talking about Her Majesty The Queen!"

"Yes, but she is hardly a Yid," countered Miri, folding her napkin neatly over a crumb which had fallen from her scone.

"Don't you remember what Rebbetzin Blauhandler from Stamford Green said when she visited last year?" Bruchi said. "She said that if Queen Elizabeth dresses with such tznus, then we, the daughters of the King of kings must surely dress with at least as much dignity and modesty."

"Yes, but she is still a... a... a goy!" Miri said. "Why are we all going to go outside to watch just because a goyishe lady is riding by, when we can be in here learning about *hilchos kneidlach*?"

"Girls," said Morah Blima, walking over. "I hope you wouldn't be too miffed if I joined in this delightful conversation."



Rivky quickly poured Morah Blima a cup of tea. “With pleasure,” she said. “We would be properly chuffed to have you join us.”

“Thank you,” Morah Blima said, taking the steaming cup and saucer and setting it down on the desk in front of her. “I heard you girls discussing the Queen’s visit. And you all made some very good points. But I want to perhaps lend another perspective. In this week’s parsha, Hashem tells Moshe Rabbeinu that he will see Eretz Yisroel. Why did Moshe need to see Eretz Yisroel?”

“So that when he went to Olam Haba he would know what it looked like?” guessed Suri.

“In the Olam HaEmes Moshe would know what Eretz Yisroel looked like one way or another,” Morah Blima said gently. “Let me ask you another question: why did Hashem take Avraham Avinu outside to see the stars? Avraham knew what stars looked like. Hashem could have just said your children will be like the stars.”

The girls looked utterly baffled by this question, so Morah Blima went on.

“It’s because seeing with our eyes brings an even greater awareness than merely knowing about it. By seeing Eretz Yisroel, Moshe gained tremendous awareness of Hashem’s greatness and kindness. By actually looking at the stars, Avraham Avinu fully understood the great number of children he was to have.

“The Queen is coming today and it is an opportunity for us to have a glimpse of malchus. Of course it is nothing compared to Malchus Shomayim, but by looking at the honor given to the human Queen of England, we can maybe start to appreciate a tiny bit of the honor due to Hashem.”

A trumpet blared far off in the distance. The girls made brachos acharonos and quickly made their way outside along with Morah Blima. Never before had they seen such a sight. All of the Yidden of Puddleshire had assembled on the street to greet the queen. Riders blowing trumpets rode past. Uniformed men marched beating drums. And then, a quiet fell as the Queen’s golden, bejeweled chariot slowly rode by, the Queen sitting inside, waving genially at the crowds. Everyone was in awe. Never before had they seen such splendor.

The girls of Morah Blima’s class watched respectfully and thought to themselves “Wow! This is only a teeny tiny bit compared to the kavod Hashem deserves! And if this is the kavod a goyishe queen gets in this world, just imagine the reward in The Next World for the Bnei Yisroel who keep Hashem’s mitzvos!”

As the royal procession rode off into the distance, the girls turned to head back to school.

“You were right,” Miri said to Rivky and Suri. “This day truly was just splendid and dandy!”

Have a Wonderful Shabbos!

let’s review:

- How does the queen’s visit relate to our parsha?
- Can you think of a time when actually seeing something you already knew made it more real to you?



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