

AT THE ARTSCROLL SHABBOS TABLE

WEEKLY INSPIRATION AND INSIGHT ADAPTED FROM CLASSIC ARTSCROLL TITLES

PROJECT DEDICATED BY MENACHEM AND BINAH BRAUNSTEIN AND FAMILY

L'ILLUI NISHMAS RAV MOSHE BEN RAV YISSOCHOR BERISH AND MARAS YENTA BAS YISROEL CHAIM

PURIM

HOW TO SERVE VODKA

This powerful story reminds us that on Purim, matanos l'evyonim, and chesed in general, is not just about fulfilling an obligation, but about giving with a full heart and genuine care.

On a cold, rainy night during one of his travels, R' Simcha Bunim of Peshischa stopped in a small town and took a room at the local inn, a kosher hotel owned by a simple Jew. There was almost no one else staying there. After the innkeeper served Reb Bunim his dinner, he stopped by his table to talk about what was weighing on his mind.

"Rebbe, I am in trouble," he said. "Hardly anyone travels through this town anymore. Business is bad. I cannot pay my expenses, let alone make a decent living. I am on the verge of going bankrupt and losing everything I have worked for my whole life. What should I do?"

Before Reb Bunim could respond, there was a loud knock at the door. The innkeeper hurried to open it and found a man standing outside in shabby, drenched clothing, shivering from the cold.

"I need a place to stay," the man said, "and something to eat. Can I sleep here and also get a meal?"

"Of course," the innkeeper replied. "Come right in."

The man stepped inside and added, "There is only one catch. I have no money. I am asking you to take me in as a favor. Is that all right?"

The innkeeper sighed. How miserable his situation had become! Finally, a guest arrives, and he has no money to pay. Still, he would never turn away a cold and hungry traveler.

"It's not a problem," said the innkeeper. "Sit down and I'll bring you something to eat."

Reb Bunim watched as the innkeeper served the man soup and then a main course. The traveler ate as if he had not eaten in days. When he finished, he

The Power of a Giver by Rabbi Meyer Yedid

wiped his mouth and called the innkeeper over.

"You are being so kind to me," he said. "The food was excellent, but I am still shivering. Could I possibly have a glass of vodka to warm me up?"

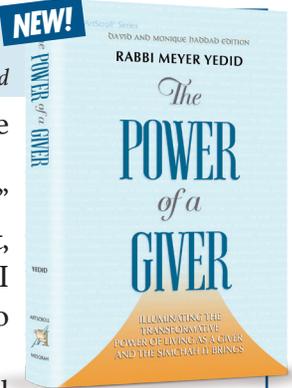
The innkeeper nodded and went to the barrel. He poured a glass of vodka, looked at it, and spilled it on the ground. He filled another glass and spilled that one too. He did this a third time. Only the fourth glass satisfied him. He brought it to the traveler and walked away.

Reb Bunim, watching in amazement, called the innkeeper over. "What were you doing?" he asked. "Vodka is expensive. You tell me you have money problems, and then you spill three glasses on the ground?"

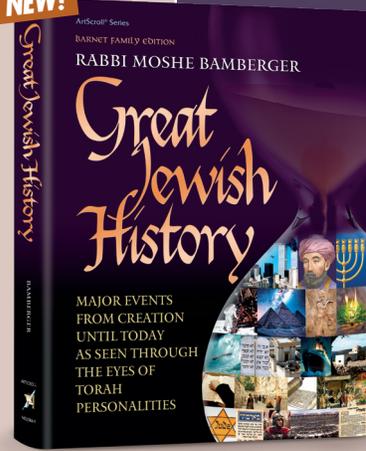
"Vodka is indeed expensive, Rebbe," said the innkeeper. "When the man asked for vodka, I was upset. Isn't it bad enough that I'm feeding him for free? But then I remembered that he is shivering, and that by giving him vodka I would be doing a *chesed* for another Jew, so I agreed."

"But when I poured that first glass, I did it with anger. It was not poured with a spirit of full generosity. I said to myself: *Is that how you are going to do a chesed for another Jew?* So, I decided that I'm not serving that vodka, and I poured it out. The same with the second and the third. By the time I poured the fourth glass, my anger was gone. I considered for a moment and was convinced I had no ill feelings, so I gave him the vodka."

When giving matanos l'evyonim or mishloach manos, think of the innkeeper. Don't just give—give with joy, give with all your heart, and give with all your soul. 📖



NEW!



Great Jewish History

NUREMBERG TRIALS ALLUDED TO IN MEGILLAS ESTHER

This Purim gragger was fashioned in 1947 at a Cyprus internment camp after World War II. It is decorated with a 1933 German coin and the carved swastika is engraved with the words "And they hanged Haman."



After WWII had ended, in 1945, an international military tribunal was established in Nuremberg, where eleven Nazi war criminals, among others, were brought to trial for their war crimes. They were: Hermann Göring, Hitler's second-in-command; Wilhelm Frick, the interior minister; Joachim von Ribbentrop, the minister of foreign affairs; Field Marshal Wilhelm Keitel; Ernst Kaltenbrunner, the head of the Gestapo; Julius Streicher, the founder and publisher of the virulently anti-Semitic newspaper *Der Stürmer*, which became a significant component of the Nazi propaganda machine; Fritz Sauckel; Alfred Jodl; Hans Frank; Alfred Rosenberg, a philosopher who advised Hitler; and Arthur Seyss-Inquart. Each of them was found guilty and sentenced to be

executed. A firing squad was deemed not severe enough a punishment for the atrocious crimes they had committed. It was decided that their sentences would be carried out by hanging. The night before the scheduled execution, Hermann Göring committed suicide. The remaining ten Nazis were hanged the following day, on Hoshana Rabbah, October 16, 1946. *Newsweek* reported the events of the execution: "Only Julius Streicher went without dignity. He had to be pushed across the floor, wild-eyed and screaming, 'Heil Hitler!' Mounting the steps, he cried out, 'And now I go to God.' He stared at the witnesses facing the gallows and shouted, 'Purim Fest, 1946.' The hanging of these ten *reshaim*, these



הָרְגוּ הַיְהוּדִים וְאֶבֶר חֵמֶשׁ מְאוֹת
 אִישׁ:
 פֶּרֶשְׁתָּהָּ
 דִּלְגוֹן
 אֶסְפֵּתָא:
 פּוֹרְתָא
 אֲדִלְיָא
 אֶרִידְתָּא:
 פֶּרֶמְשֵׁתָא
 אֶרִיסִי
 אֶרְדִּי
 וְיִתְּלֵם:
 עֶשְׂרֵת
 בְּנֵי הַמֶּן בֶּן הַמְדַתָּא צַרְר הַיְהוּדִים
 הָרְגוּ... וְתֵאמֶר אֶסְתֵּר אִם עַל
 הַמֶּלֶךְ טוֹב יִנָּתֵן גַּם מִקֶּדֶר לַיְהוּדִים
 אֲשֶׁר בְּשִׁשָּׁן לַעֲשׂוֹת כְּדַת הַיּוֹם
 וְאֵת עֶשְׂרֵת בְּנֵי הַמֶּן יִתְּלוּ עַל
 הָעֵץ.

Nazi defendants in the dock at the Nuremberg Trials



ten Amalekim, was a re-enactment of the Yom Tov of Purim, of the hanging of the *Aseres Bnei Haman*. And an eleventh committed suicide — as did Haman’s daughter when she jumped to her death after realizing that she had mistakenly poured the chamber pot over her father’s head as he paraded Mordechai through the streets of Shushan.

Incredibly, the date of the Nuremberg executions is unmistakably hinted at in the *Megillah*. There are three small letters in the list of Haman’s ten sons who were hanged ת, ש, and ז. The year that the ten Nazis were hanged was תש"ז! Rabbi Michoel Dov Weissmandl (1903-1957), who was very active in rescuing Jews from the Holocaust, discovered this astounding revelation.

YOMI SCHEDULES FOR THIS WEEK:	SHABBOS FEBRUARY 28	SUNDAY MARCH 1	MONDAY MARCH 2	TUESDAY MARCH 3	WEDNESDAY MARCH 4	THURSDAY MARCH 5	FRIDAY MARCH 6	
	יא אדר	יב אדר	יג אדר	יד אדר	טו אדר	טז אדר	יז אדר	
	BAVLI	Menachos 48	Menachos 49	Menachos 50	Menachos 51	Menachos 52	Menachos 53	Menachos 54
	YERUSHALMI	Beitzah 38	Beitzah 39	Beitzah 40	Beitzah 41	Beitzah 42	Beitzah 43	Beitzah 44
	MISHNAH	Kerisus 5:2-3	Kerisus 5:4-5	Kerisus 5:6-7	Kerisus 5:8-6:1	Kerisus 6:2-3	Kerisus 6:4-5	Kerisus 6:6-7
	KITZUR	140:1-141:3	141:4-13	141:14-21	141:22-142:5	142:6-End	72:11-19	72:20-73:4
	ORAYSA	Yevamos Chazara 34a-35a	Yevamos 35b Chazara 35a	Yevamos 36a Chazara 35b	Yevamos 36b Chazara 36a	Yevamos 37a Chazara 36b	Yevamos 37b Chazara 37a	Yevamos Chazara 35b-36a

WIN A \$36 ARTSCROLL GIFT CARD!

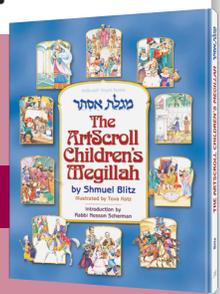
THE WEEKLY QUESTION

What are the first words of the Tefillah of Shoshanas Yaakov?

Kids, please ask your parents to email the answer to shabbosquestion@artscroll.com by this Wednesday to be entered into a weekly raffle to win a \$36 ARTSCROLL GIFT CARD! Be sure to include your full name, city, and contact info. Names of winners will appear in a future edition. HINT: The answer can be found in *The ArtScroll Children’s Megillah*.

The winner of the question for Beshalach is: **YAAKOV ZEV RAND, Chestnut Ridge, NY**

Question for Beshalach was: Name the three incredible gifts that traveled with the Jews in the desert
Beshalach Answer: The mahn, water that would come from a rock and the Ananei HaKavod





FROM A MEGILLAH TO A MOVEMENT



Purim 5736 (1976) had a new guest on thousands of festive tables: the newly released first-ever ArtScroll/Mesorah publication—Megillas Esther, translated with commentary. It's fifty years since then, and a good time to look back at the five decades of ArtScroll, the people, ideas, and events that led to today's more than 3,500 titles so far, in five languages. It's a fascinating story, filled with challenges, refusal to surrender, bold steps forward, and inspiring illustrations of how Hashem orchestrates events.

Tragedies elicit sometimes unexpected reactions. Rabbi Mair Fogel was a popular and accomplished *rebbe* at Yeshivah Toras Emes in Boro Park, who had a host of loyal friends. And then, on the 3rd of Teves, 5736, he unexpectedly and shockingly passed away in his sleep, leaving a widow and no children. How do people react to such tragedies? Tears. Shock. Some put up a memorial plaque or even collaborate to write a sefer Torah.

Rabbi Meir Zlotowitz was different. He was a man of imagination and vision, a *talmid chacham* who always thought in terms of Torah. His lost friend was a man who lived to spread Torah, and Purim was only a few months away. R' Meir sought a way to honor his friend's memory and felt there could be a no more fitting and enduring tribute than to undertake an English translation and commentary on Megillas Esther, and to complete it by the end of the *Shloshim*.

It would not be an easy task. R' Meir had to keep running his business, ArtScroll Studios, which was a graphics company that produced invitations, *kesubos*, brochures and other printed material. That meant that his research and writing for the commentary would have to be done mainly in the evening, late night, and early morning. Sleep would have to be rationed until after the *Shloshim*.

Was it possible? Probably not! But R' Meir was a man of unusual stamina and determination, and he made it happen. He met his self-imposed deadline of *Shloshim*. It was a sign of things to come many times over the years at ArtScroll; with *siyata diShemaya* the impossible would become possible.

To edit his manuscript, R' Meir recruited his good friend, Rabbi Nosson Scherman, principal of Yeshivah Karlin Stolin, who, like R' Meir himself, "had no

time." Once the translation and commentary were edited, R' Meir asked R' Scherman to write an introduction, which they called, "An Overview," a name that stuck and became the forerunner of scores of Overviews. R' Meir asked Rav Dovid Feinstein *zt"l* and *yb"l* Rav Dovid Cohen to review the manuscript. R' Meir was proud to receive a warm *haskamah* from his *rebbe muvhak*, Rav Moshe Feinstein *zt"l*, and others.

R' Sheah Brander, R' Meir's principal colleague at ArtScroll Studios, was a brilliant yeshivah graduate and budding graphic artist. Together, they fashioned the new Megillas Esther into a book of beauty, one that would match any volume on the shelves of Barnes and Noble. They followed the advice of the great gaon Rabbi Akiva Eiger, who wrote to his sons that when preparing their father's responsa for print, they should use paper and typography of the highest quality. A work of Torah, he said, should be a *Kid-dush Hashem*. And that's what the new Megillas Esther volume was: a thing of beauty.

Until then, a typical English-language Torah work was considered a commercial success if 2,000 copies were sold – and even that number was unusual. In less than two months, over 20,000 copies were sold. It was an unprecedented success, a fitting tribute to the memory of R' Mair Fogel. That was the original plan, and it had been accomplished. None of the three men had any intention of becoming writers and publishers. Their intention was to produce a meaningful memorial to a departed friend and *marbitz* Torah.

Mission accomplished, Rabbis Zlotowitz, Scherman, and Brander could go back to their regular jobs.

But it was not to be. What happened? *We'll find out next week...*