

Siyum on Halichos Shlomo – Volume III
Sunday evening, March 12, 2023 on the eve of 20 Adar 5783
Maimonides Kehillah, Brookline, MA

This evening, we begin to commemorate the third Yahrzeit of our father, Tzemach ben Yosef, a”h. Over the last two years, we were zochim to complete the first two volumes of Halichos Shlomo, a collection of Halachos and Halichos, Chidushim, and He-Arot of HaRav HaGaon Shlomo Zalman Auerbach, z”l. As I pointed out 2 years ago, Reb Shlomo Zalman and my father share the same Yahrzeit date, Chof Adar.

By no coincidence, this third and final volume of Halichos Shlomo spans Halachic material from Tishrei through Adar and the final chapter of the Sefer reviews the Halachos of Purim Meshulash – the Triple Purim.

Purim Meshulash occurs somewhat rarely in our calendar – that is, when Shushan Purim, the 15th of Adar, falls out on Shabbos. The most recent event occurred on 2021 and the next occurrence will take place in 2025.

The event is called Meshulash because the residents of Yerushalayim celebrate Purim over three days.

1. Megilla reading and matanos l’evyonim takes place on Friday (the 14th of Adar)
2. Al HaNissim is recited on Shabbos and the Maftir is taken from the Torah reading for Purim (the 15th of Adar)
3. Mishloach Manot and the Seudas Purim take place on Sunday (the 16th of Adar)

The topics that R. Shlomo Zalman touched upon in this final Perek include:

1. Who is considered a Ben Krach (a walled-city-dweller) for the purposes of Purim Meshulash
2. How far in advance does the Bracha of SheHeCheyanu apply when we recite it prior to the Megilla reading on Friday. That is, do we have Kavana for it to apply all the way to the Purim activities of Sunday, two days later?
3. What to do in the case where you didn’t perform the Mitzvah of Matanos L’Evyonim on Friday – can you do it on Shabbos via direct gifts of food.
4. The permissibility of having a wedding on the 14th of Adar

In Shulchan Aruch Orach Chayim 696, we pasken that a wedding is allowed on Purim (the Rama adds that includes both the 14th and 15th of Adar). The Magen Avraham questions this psak as we normally don’t allow a wedding on a Moed due to the principle of Ayn MeArvin Simcha B’Simcha.

However, in the year of a Purim Meshulash, the seudah, the activity that includes the ikar mitzvah of Purim day, that of “Ad Delo Yada”, is held on Sunday, the 16th of Adar. So even though the Magen Avraham would rule against a wedding on Purim, he would allow it in a year of Purim Meshulash on Friday, Erev Shabbos, the 14th of Adar. There is no conflict of simcha in this scenario since the Magen Avraham opines that the ikar mitzvah of the wedding simcha is the seudah that is made on the first night of the new marriage and that will be on Shabbos evening. There is no Purim conflict here since, in a year of Purim Meshulash, Shabbos only references Purim through Al Hanissim and the Maftir portion during the day. (Of course, in this case, the videographer and photographer would be unable to take all those First Sheva Brochos videos and pictures.)

The Halichos Shlomo then comments that, in truth, the Simcha of Purim is qualitatively different than any other Simcha associated with a mitzva from the Torah. Why is this? He answers that during the Purim event, the Jewish people rejected their earlier approaches to accepting the Torah. Rather than accepting the Torah through the lens of “kafah aleyhem har k-gigis (Shabbat 86a)”, Rava teaches us we nevertheless reaccepted the Torah now during the reign of Achashverosh. Thus, the simcha of the Purim season is “ad d’lo yada” – beyond our ability to place a threshold on it. We are beyond overjoyed. This is the unique aspect of Purim that is beyond all the other Chagim.

My father’s approach to living Jewish was to share his infectious passion for Yiddishkeit with everyone he met. He spent his career of over 60 years helping others. Whether it was with young people through Jewish summer camps as a Camp Director. Whether it was involving adults in hands-on mitzvah programming like grogger-making before Purim. Whether it was involving women of all ages in learning how to weave taleisim for their family members in a JCC facility that exists to this day. Whether it was making sure to have a dvar Torah ready to say from the teachings of his most favorite Rabbi, Abraham J. Twerski, z”tl, every time there was a family event.

My father was an inspirational human being and shared his positive attitude with everyone with whom he met. He left a treasured legacy of mitzvah observance, love of G-d, and love of the Torah and he is super-blessed with having built a family that thinks lovingly of him every single day.

Yehu Zichro Baruch.