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For we have been sold, I and my people, to be destroyed, to be slain, and to perish; ויאמר המלך אחשׁוורוש ויאמר לאסתר המלכה מי הוא זה ואי זה הוא And King Achashveirosh said, and he said to Queen Esther, "Who is this, and who is he, who has dared to do this?" (7:4-5) The obvious difficulty is: Did Achashveirosh really forget that he decreed this to Haman, such that he asks Esther: "Who dared to do this"? However,

since Esther never revealed her nationality to Achashveirosh, he still never suspected her to be a Jew. Now the decree was only imposed upon the Jews, and since Esther was definitely not a Jew, her people upon whom a decree had been issued to be slain, did not come from the king: therefore, he asked: "Who is this and who is he, who has dared to do this?" (ספר מרחשׁוׁת משה, הר"ר משה באכנער ז"ל, קראקא תרפ"ה)

STORY OF THE WEEK (By Yehuda Z. Klitnick)

***** Rav Elimelech of Lizensk sends the Lelover Rebbe to heal the Rav of Pinsk *****

The Rebbe Reb Elimelech from Lizensk וצוק"ל, had a talmid the Lelover Rebbe, Reb Dovid וצוק"ל. One day, Reb Elimelech called in Reb Dovid and asked him to travel to Pinsk. He gave him the address of Yekil the baker, and asked him to tell Yekil to open a shtiebel for Chassidim. Pinsk was a city in which many residents were opposed to the Chassidim. Yekil agreed, and hired 10 poor people to come daven with him that Shabbos. This act caused an uproar in the city. This would not be allowed! A minyan which davened Nusach Sefard and which encouraged the spreading of Chassidus in the city would not happen. Word spread to the Rav of Pinsk, who summoned Yekil to come to him. When the Rav ordered Yekil to cancel the minyan, Yekil simply asked: "Is there anything wrong in davening with 10 poor plain people? Many people have Minyonim of their own, and the Rav doesn't say anything!" The Rav was adamant, and said: "I insist that you cancel the minyan, as it will cause chaos in the city." Yekil didn't answer the Rav, and that Shabbos again he gathered the 10 poor people and formed a minyan. Again, the Rav summoned Yekil, and the same scenario occurred, and Yekil left. The third Shabbos, Yekil did the same as before, and again the Rav summoned Yekil, but instead of talking, the Rav became angry and started slapping Yekil uncontrollably. Yekil didn't answer; he was in great pain, his face was swollen, and he left.

That day, the Rav's only daughter passed away, and the Rav fell into a deep depression and forgot his learning. The biggest doctors were summoned, but no one was able to lift the Rav out of his depression. Of course, Yekil didn't tell anyone what the Rav had done to him, and the whole story remained a mystery as to why the daughter of the Rav had passed away and why this sudden punishment had befallen the Rav. Meanwhile, now that the Rav wasn't well, Yekil expanded the minyan and became the leader of the shul. Reb Elimelech saw all this happen through his Ruach HaKodesh, and wanted to help the Rav to have a Refuah Shleimoh. He told Reb Dovid of Lelov to dress up as a Rebbe and to visit Pinsk. Reb Dovid, who was very humble, had little desire to do such a thing. However when his Rebbe told him that by him doing this, the city of Pinsk would expand its Shul by means of the entry of the

Chassidim, Reb Dovid agreed to go. Reb Dovid made the long trip, and came to the home of Yekil. He told Yekil what his rebbe had insisted that he do, and Yekil immediately hung out posters that a wonder-performing Tzaddik who makes miracles had come to town. People, upon seeing the posters, started flocking to Yekil's home and they found the warmth of Reb Dovid soothing, and his advice and blessings worked wonders. Word spread to the home of the Rav that a "Wonder-Rabbiner" was in town. A fiery debate erupted in the home of the Rav. Pro and con arguments were heating up. At the end of the debate, the pro arguments won. It was agreed that the Rav should go to the "Wonder Rebbe" only at a private location, and that the Rebbe should give the Rav a special audience.

However, when the delegation came to Reb Dovid with their proposal, Reb Dovid exclaimed: "Chas-V'shalom! I do not agree that the Rav of Pinsk should come and visit me. On the contrary, I insist that I go myself to visit him!" Reb Dovid didn't wait for an answer. He put on his coat and went straight to the home of the Rav.

When Reb Dovid entered the room and saw the Rav, he began smiling warmly. The Rav started feeling comfortable, and he asked Reb Dovid to sit down. They spoke to each other in a very friendly manner. When the Rav was very comfortable, he asked Reb Dovid: why had he received such a harsh punishment? Reb Dovid answered: normally I would not be allowed to tell you this, but my Rebbe, Reb Elimelech of Lizensk gave me permission to tell you, for your sake. You should know that Yekil the baker is one of the 36 Hidden Tzadikim, and when he bakes his bread in Pinsk, the Rebbe Reb Elimelech smells at that time the smell of the Lechem Haponim. His Kavonos are so great then. In heaven, they were very angry that you hit Yekil with such anger. The only remedy for you is to undertake to help Yekil strengthen the minyan, and to help him build a shul for the Chassidim, and then you will become well. The Rebbe promised that he would do everything he could. The Rav, of course, begged forgiveness from Yekil, who then forgave the Rav. The Rav had a Refuah Sheleimoh and his life returned to normal.

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