

פורים Purim

...the same month which had been transformed for them from one of grief and mourning to one of festive joy.

Esther 9:22

Purim is a festival of opposites. In the scroll of Esther, we enter a theater of good and evil, mourning and celebration, comedy and tragedy, true identity and disguise, a threat to life and an ultimate victory.

We live in a world of opposites. In all corners of the earth, we are surrounded by a landscape of violence and peace, hatred and love, wealth and poverty, abundance and hunger, equality and disparity.

We are reminded by the Purim story that opposite forces must come face-to-face with one another in order to effect change. If Vashti had not challenged Ahasuerus, the cycle of abuse would have continued. If Mordechai had not pushed against Haman, the Jewish people would not have found freedom. If Esther had not used her power for good, the decree against her people would have remained fixed.

And if we stand apart from misfortune and do nothing to counter the injustice taking place around us, we will continue to live in a world that is polarized and unjust.

By confronting prejudice, we transform the world from one of suffering and loss to one of wholeness and celebration.

By confronting inequality, we transform the world from one of poverty and hunger to one of fulfillment and plenty.

By confronting war, we transform the world from one of violence and oppression to one of peace and freedom.

Like the actors in the Purim story, let us confront injustice and act to change a tomorrow of grief and mourning to one of festive joy.

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