

Masking The Light

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Toras Avigdor Junior

Adapted from the teachings
of Rav Avigdor Miller z"l

The boys in Rebbe Caplan's class hurried back after recess. Nobody wanted to be late for Parshas Hashavuah - it was the most interesting class of the week.

"Hi boys," Rebbe Caplan said a minute later as he entered the classroom to find everyone waiting quietly in their seats. "I see nobody is wearing a mask today."

The boys looked around at each other, confused.

Yitzky raised his hand. "Rebbe, Purim is over - why would we be wearing a mask?"

"You can't think of another reason?" asked Rebbe Caplan, his eyes twinkling.

"Is COVID back?" asked Chezky nervously.

"Boruch Hashem, no," Rebbe Caplan replied. "Anyone else want to guess?"

The boys just stared at Rebbe Caplan. Nobody could think of why they should be wearing a mask.

After a few seconds, Rebbe Caplan pulled a giant flashlight out from his desk drawer and a blinding light filled the classroom. Immediately, the boys all covered their faces with their hands to shield themselves from the glare.



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“Rebbe,” said Yitzzy from behind his hands. “Is that the new Kindletron™ ten-million candle-power super torch?”

“It is,” said Rebbe Caplan, still shining the light at the boys. “And do you know why I brought it?”

“Because we didn’t wear masks?” asked Chezky, still confused.

“A mask would be helpful right now,” Yitzzy said. “My hands are getting tired.”

“Okay boys, you can put your hands down now,” said Rebbe Caplan, switching off the flashlight. “Now, does anyone know what that has to do with this week’s Parsha?”

“Oh, Moshe Rabbeinu had to wear a mask to protect people from the tremendous light shining from his face!” Yitzzy said.

“Exactly!” said Rebbe Caplan. “Now, why do you think the Torah tells us about that?”

Moishy raised his hand. “Because it’s something that happened in the Midbar,” he said.

“A lot of things happened during the 40 years in the Midbar,” Rebbe Caplan said. “If the Torah told us about everything that occurred, it would be so big that it would take twenty men to do *hagbah*. No, the Torah only tells us things that teach us a lesson.”

“I don’t know the answer, but I have another question,” said Yitzzy. “What was the point in Moshe Rabbeinu’s face shining like that if nobody was able to look at it anyway?”

“Ah, excellent question!” Rebbe Caplan exclaimed. “Let me ask you this: what is the point of this powerful flashlight if you need to cover your eyes when I point it at you?”

“Well, it can be useful in the right situation,” answered Yitzzy. “For example, to light up a large area when it’s pitch black outside.”

“Very good,” Rebbe Caplan said, nodding. “And do you know what else has a mask on it? The Torah.”

The boys looked at each other again. “The Torah has a mask?” they all wondered.

Rebbe Caplan smiled at the confused boys and continued. “You see, none of us are able to completely understand the full depth of the Torah - it’s an endless powerful light. We are only able to understand small parts of it, through the ‘mask’ of our limitations. But each tiny part that we can understand is still super-valuable to us, just like the flashlight can be very useful, even if we are not able to look directly at it.”

“Why does the Torah need to have so much that we can’t understand?” asked Chezky.

“Because the Torah has no limit,” Rebbe Caplan replied. “The more Torah we learn, the more we remove the mask from it and uncover even more depth. And when we get to Olam Haba, those who spent their life devoted to understanding as much of the Torah as possible will be able to look at the unmasked Torah and have the pleasure of understanding it in all of its depth.”

Have A Wonderful Shabbos!

Takeaway:

The Light of Hashem as expressed by the Torah and the Tzaddikim like Moshe Rabbeinu is endless. Although most of it is covered up and inaccessible to us, we still gain from its Endless Light.



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