

# USING MASKS – BACK TO SQUARE ONE

הרב אלי אטיה ומתן אלמהצוות לב לדעת,

USING MASKS – BACK TO SQUARE ONE BY RABBI ELI ATIA AND MATAN ALMA BACKGROUND INFORMATION IN THE FOLLOWING LESSON WE WILL DEAL WITH THE CONNECTION BETWEEN DISGUISES AND PURIM. WE WILL ALSO LEARN WHY SIGNIFICANT BIBLICAL FIGURES DISGUISED THEMSELVES, ON SEVERAL OCCASIONS. STEP 1 THE STUDENTS WILL WATCH THE FOLLOWING VIDEO (START FROM 0:20. AT THIS STAGE WE WOULD NOT LIKE THE STUDENTS TO KNOW THE OLD MAN IS IN DISGUISE). AFTER WATCHING, THE TEACHER SHOULD ASK THEM WHETHER OR NOT THE OLD MAN IS WEARING A MASK. ASK THE STUDENTS THE FOLLOWING THOUGHT-PROVOKING QUESTIONS: WHICH SITUATIONS CAUSE US TO BECOME NEGATIVELY SURPRISED? [1] WOULD YOU LIKE TO LIVE IN A WORLD IN WHICH SOME PEOPLE WEAR REALISTIC LOOKING SILICON MASKS? IN CASE STUDENT'S ANSWER WILL BE NEGATIVE, THEY WILL FACE THE FOLLOWING QUESTION: IF SO, WHY DO YOU CONSIDER A FASHION WIG TO BE LEGITIMATE (NOT IN HALACHIC TERMS, BUT IN GENERAL)? IS THERE ANY DIFFERENCE BETWEEN WEARING A WIG AND WEARING A SILICON MASK? [1] A POSSIBLE ANSWER: WHEN SOMEONE WE LOOK UP TO, OR SOMEONE WHO IS CLOSE TO US DOES SOMETHING MORALLY WRONG? MOVIE WORKING IN GROUPS DIVIDE THE CLASS INTO SEVERAL GROUPS. EACH GROUP WILL DISCUSS ONE BIBLICAL SOURCE; WITH THE HELP OF GUIDING QUESTIONS [SEE THE ATTACHED]. THE TEACHER WILL APPOINT A 'LEADER' FOR EACH GROUP, WHO WILL BE RESPONSIBLE OF HER GROUP'S PERFORMANCE. STUDENTS PRESENTATIONS EACH GROUP REPRESENTATIVE WILL GIVE A SHORT PRESENTATION ABOUT THE BIBLICAL SOURCE HIS GROUP DISCUSSED, AND THEIR ANSWERS TO THE GUIDING QUESTIONS. ALLOW TIME FOR QUESTIONS IN THE END. INTERNALIZING OPTION 1– WRITING ASSIGNMENT THE STUDENTS WILL ANSWER THE FOLLOWING QUESTIONS IN ESSAY FORM. DESCRIBE A SITUATION IN WHICH YOU USED A 'MASK'. EXPLAIN WHY YOU USED IT. WHICH TYPES OF 'MASKS' MAKE YOU FEEL COMFORTABLE, AND WHICH DON'T? ARE THERE ANY PEOPLE WHO REGULARLY SEE YOU WHILE YOUR 'MASK' IS ON? WHO ARE THOSE PEOPLE? A FEW STUDENTS WILL SHARE THEIR ANSWERS WITH THEIR FELLOW CLASSMATES. OPTION 2 – PRESENTATION ASK A FEW STUDENTS TO DESCRIBE AND PRESENT A SITUATION IN WHICH THEY ARE FORCED TO USE A 'MASK'. THEN ASK THEM TO EXPLAIN THEIR REASON FOR WEARING THE MASK (DUE TO: FEAR / SHAME / MODESTY / IMPERSONATION/ DECEIT). OPTION 3 – STUDENT THEATER ASK FOR A FEW VOLUNTEERS TO PERFORM THE SCENE IN WHICH ONE OF THE BIBLICAL FIGURES USED A 'MASK' (ADAM, MOSES, SAUL, AHAB, AND SO ON...) ACCORDING TO THEIR OWN PERSONAL PERSPECTIVE[1]. THIS ACTIVITY MAY BE DONE SEVERAL TIMES BY USING DIFFERENT STUDENTS AND DIFFERENT BIBLICAL CHARACTERS. [1] ENCOURAGE THE STUDENTS TO ADD THEIR OWN DIALOGUE AND LANGUAGE AND TO EMBELLISH THE SCENE BEYOND THE BIBLICAL TEXT. CLASS DISCUSSION: FORM AN INSTRUCTION RELATED TO THE USAGE OF MASKS: WHICH OCCASIONS WARRANT THE USE OF MASKS, AND IN WHICH SHOULD IT BE AVOIDED? IN YOUR OPINION, WHEN DO PEOPLE USUALLY WEAR MASKS? WHAT DO YOU THINK IS THE CONNECTION BETWEEN PURIM AND MASKS? CONCLUSION WHAT DO THE MASKS HAVE TO DO WITH PURIM? THE TALMUD SAYS: IT RESEMBLES THE MINUS SIGN ( - ). WHEN WE DOUBLE IT, IT BECOMES A PLUS ( + ). IN OTHER WORDS, WEARING A MASK ON PURIM IS WHAT GETS US BACK TO SQUARE ONE, TO WHERE IT ALL STARTED. THIS IS THE MEANING OF THE CONCEPT CALLED "וְנִהְיִינוּ". OUR ROUTINE IS FULL OF MASKS. ON PURIM WE ARE ENCOURAGED TO WEAR AN ADDITIONAL MASK, ON TOP OF THE ONE WE ALREADY WEAR IN OUR EVERYDAY LIFE. IN THIS WAY, WE ARE ABLE TO RETURN TO OUR TRUE NATURE. THIS IS ALSO, WHY WE DRINK WINE IN PURIM. ONLY THROUGH WINE THE TRUTH IS REVEALED ("סוד יצא יין ננס"). IT IS ONLY WHEN WE EXPOSE OUR TRUE NATURE, THAT THERE

IS NO NEED TO WEAR A MASK PHOTO CREDIT: MASKS PHOTO, FREE IMAGES WEBSITE