

2012, March 8

## Mother's Thursday Night Call

**Opening Meditation:** Cathy

**Mayan Calendar:** Rainbird

- Thursday - 10 CUAUC - a full moon today. A manifestation number of intention; giving receiving unconditional love. The sun glyph of the storm - a visionary aspect - showing others their path
- Friday - AHAU - last & 20<sup>th</sup> glyph - an 11 - through destruction there is creation. Striving to wholeness - recognizing self as god self Also completes the unial
- Saturday - KIBI - we start a new unial- the 10<sup>th</sup> month of 20 days. KIBI is a 12 energy - crystal clear understanding; intuition and understanding come naturally; need clarity of mind, as our intentions determine what we create
- Sunday - we complete the wave of the dog; it's IK, the wind - a visionary aspect, about listening to spirit & trusting and responding to spirit
- Monday -AKBAL, the night: learning from your dream time; also have protection of the night ; it's the one tone: unity. Calling in abundance. This is the beginning of a new wave.
- Tuesday - KAN, 2 a portal day - the thinning of an already thin veil
- Wed - 3 CHICCAN - a warrior aspect; good time to surrender fears
- Thursday - 14 CIMI a world bridger, bridging the past and the future, letting go of what no longer serves, so we can breathe anew.

**Tara:** thanks for the energy; today is International Women's Day, full moon AND Rainbird's birthday!  
Our sister Debbie's mother left today - those on the other side can come back, as they wish.

**Rainbird:** telepathically, she influenced the kids' choice of cake and ice cream to celebrate her birthday

**D'Yanna:**

- a friend told D on Sunday that what she wants is coming!
- Two solar flares from the sun - phones and computers being shut down all day long!
- Saw 2 turtle doves outside her window; watched for an hour!

**Rainbird:** saw a pair of turtle doves this morning, as well!

**Tara:** it's #4, the goddess is here - goddesses are out on the streets! Lady Master Athena's starship, the Dove, is 5,000 miles across; it's 3<sup>rd</sup> eye lands on Palenque which has to do with the ancient Mayans returned - which is us  
Mayan, Aztecs, Hopi are cousins - learned that on Thom Hartman - the return of the Hopi

**Rainbird:** This is CUAUC - weather people saying that in all latitudes can see the auroras

**Housekeeping:** D'Yanna

**BBS:** Need \$128 to complete last week! Need \$300 for this week There is a **Paypal** button here

**T & R:** \$165 for phone bill, car insurance; \$700 for rent

• On the website: [www.2013RainbowRoundTable.com](http://www.2013RainbowRoundTable.com) There is a **Paypal** button on this site  
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• Please notify them if you're sending something: [koran999@comcast.net](mailto:koran999@comcast.net)

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**Hard News:**

**T:** about the feminine: 130,000 women cut off their health insurance in Texas; singer Marsha Ball

- 8 out of 9 Georgia senators walked out of the Senate
- a +ve story: Cairo, Yemen, Iran, Tunisia - demonstrations - about Iran's women activists
  - on one hand is one symbol, on the other hand, another: women have equal rights to men!!!
  - women in Tunisia can have abortions and divorce as well
- Purim Festival has to do with Iran -

**R:** keeps being told that it's being screamed to the heavens: no nuclear detonations over Iran

- Yesterday, spoke to KOS and Heidi of BIS: stories that they are tinkering with black and whatever screens: has to do with the changeover and us going back to precious metal backed currency
- no dinar settlement until major arrests: they said towards end of this month
- the energy that is pouring in right now so much it will open your heart

**Randi Rhodes:** Gingrich has taken us down the road to economic high treason

- he is not valid to be running for president: connected lobbyists and congressional crimes - should be in prison
- we have a bought and paid for Congress, as we are always told
- there are 10 -15 lobbyists dragging on the coattails of each congress person

**KOS** - frequencies coming in right now -if you're not in your heart, you no longer stay here

- expect to see things wrapped up this month
- these ones and the knock down drag 'em out fight between the legislative and admin branches
  - they are taking themselves out
  - two more of Murdoch's goons are dead - suicide?

**R:** went to health food store: you're going through male menopause; the St. John's Wart is ideal for all men to have in the year of the goddess to put you in balance: as for happy Camper - helps you go through your mood swings!

**R:** The flares are affecting everything: a local fireman said he was affected to the point that he is going to have a change of heart and career: he has been following Neal Donald Walsh's teachings "Talks with God" NDW has opened an office in Santa Fe so vets have a place to go and talk and heal

**T:** need to look at what is going on internally in Iran: a mirror of what is going on in our own country

- McCain in bed with Netanyahu and Hillary about
- Story of Purim: as he recalls Jewish Purim - Jewish festivals that celebrates the Jewish natives of old Iran - like we celebrate Christmas wrong, they celebrate Purim wrong

**Caller:** Timothy Geitner in Texas for transportation summit: does Rama have any bank stories to tell?

**R:** Washington Federal Bank: he showed them a 1000 dinar note; they were all excited - they all know something is up - wanted him to open an account; going rate is between \$12 - \$15 / dinar

**Cathy:** isn't that an outlandish amount? Why is this showing up when we've heard \$3-\$4

**T:** difference between how bad the crimes were, and how worse they made it since 2004

- We are NOT in debt - our money was stolen!

- The Greek people said we do not want your money! And they still made a deal - cutting a huge amount off their debt
- The Dinar will not revalue of itself: 100 other countries have to be re-valued as well!

**Cathy:** thinks it will be one on one!

**R:** has heard that it might re-value high, and then level out; when the total re-vamping happens, might get highest value within the first few days

**Cathy:** don't put all your money in US dollars - you could lose half the value of what you get

**T:** when NESARA is announced, the whole thing changes: when it is announced, the value will go up

- for the whole next month, the whole system would not be changed - people will still get the same pay etc at the end of that month, the re-value will happen
- The value of the new currency will be in terms of the precious metals: \$50 a troy oz of gold; \$40 a troy oz of platinum; \$10 a troy oz of silver

**Caller:** What's the deal with Bill Gates in China?

**R:** getting chewed out; the only good thing that has occurred with Bill and Melinda is that he uploaded the nanites into the ships so

- The rest of his legacy is that he has played with the Bilderburgs, Bohemian Grove, genocide with girls; told he was to give up half of his fortune but put it into Melinda's foundation - got arrested with Kissinger, Geitner, Bush Sr
- Geitner sang like a canary; he now has an officer of some sort with him at all times

**Cathy:** is it true that Gates created the trapdoors in the systems re the banking system and dinars?

**R:** yes; he knows he has to face Mother as well as the people in the Illuminati that wanted him to do that

**Cathy:** heard it was up to 153 resignation from bank organizations!!!!

**R:** got a hot cat on a hot tin roof with sharp claws!

**Caller:** what about Rush Limbaugh's episode?

**R:** need to be removed from the airwaves + shut Fox News down

- do not cross the goddess at this time, and he has done it

**T:** Keith says the women across the world do not want to hear one more word

- Boehner says he is going to keep pushing the contraception thing - at the end of the month,
- None of them can leave the country: there is a force field that is going up
- Also, energy frequencies of love are being amped up; this is painful to the heart of a dark one and resistance is futile - cut off time is at the end of March. Instant combustion is an option at the end of the month

**KOS:** will be seen in DC and London: bullets in the back of heads of certain people

**R: Anonymous** new message: corruption in bankers, fed reserve: can't sustain the 1% in this position any more: now is time for peace, now is time for love

**T:** on March 15, Ides of March - something very big - the news will change even more radically

- heard "Department of Peace" in same breath as Dennis Kucinich
- RTTV:Big Picture - 280 on dish Network - amazing what they have to say

**R:** Putin has said that the Wanta Mitterand funds and the whole idea of another Bretton Woods thing gets told - those who have played with Russia: Inshallah!

**Cathy:** a famous building in Paris is on fire: the Vandoma - building owned by KOE! This is the building Dodi and Di were in before they were killed - hit the 13 pillar

**T:** Whitney Houston was killed by an agent of Q E 2 as a human sacrifice!! They need a human sacrifice for their obscene rites

- the original bill of rights puts women first, and that is why women are being attacked so heavily

**R:** we will have a planet without war!

**Caller:** heard that Gates was extracting quite a bit of money, and it was new money - true?

**T:** doubts it; that usually comes from the dinar calls and the ones on those programs are all criminals

- they want the re-valuation so bad! They talk as if they are the rooster on top of the hill
- nothing happens until those who think they are running the show are arrested!

**Caller:** curious - how long ago that Bill got arrested?

**T:** at same time as Geitner got arrested - Feb 24<sup>th</sup>.

- Ben Fulford said they could not make Geitner shut up!

**Caller:** Bill Gates story would be worthy of good news, but hearing nothing of it!

**T:** there are arrests in MSNBC: Joe Scarborough; Mica Brizinski; say good bye to Fox News;

- Whole bunch in CNN
- Won't get the right news until the media is cleaned up, too.

**Reading: Festival of Purim History in the Persian Empire**

**[SEE BELOW]**

**Caller:** Pope Benedict getting ready to make a special move: stepping down on April 15<sup>th</sup>

**T:** Both Pope and Net have flesh eating disease

- the case that Ireland has against him could be weighing on him: covered on 60 minutes last week
- the real reason is NESARA will dismantle the Vatican

**Caller:** Libbero newspaper: saying Pope is definitely going to step down on Ap 15<sup>th</sup>, his 85<sup>th</sup> birthday

**R:** has not heard a single word about that!

**Caller:** Libero - Pope Benedict XIV is stepping down on 85<sup>th</sup> birthday

**T:** she has the Book of Mormon - on Thom Hartman's show, talked of Mormonism and relationship to moors, muslims, the masons

One lady said in before the return of Christ, he is going to destroy the people

**Reading:** Ch 9 of the Book of Mormon talks about destruction the law of Moses is fulfilled and invites men to come unto him

Ch 10 talks of peace

**T:** in Mayan Calendar and the astrology: intensity is now

**R:** the big black cat in Karnack got out of her chair and sat beside Rama when he was there, sitting on the ground in front of the statue!

• Judas is Thaddeus the Great: not a traitor, but one who steered them away from Christ that night:

- he went to the temple and told the Pharisees he could show them where the Christ was -
- Thaddeus took them to the garden and showed them Aruhabbi, Jesus' look alike
- Shroud of Turin: on PBS - the oils in them were of resuscitation, not embalming  
he has never died, nor have we

• there was a fossil - 47 million years old of a fully civilized human being - we know for sure we had civilization 47 million years ago and it goes farther back than that

• on one call, we talked of stone people which means they have souls: 2.5 trillion years old on this planet!

**Reading:** More on Purim

**Caller:** heard that Fed Res has vault and holding gold for other countries: Switzerland and

- Germany would like to have their gold back and hold it in their own countries
- Going to be a big audit on it to find out how much there is?

**R:** at the point where the exposure of the criminality of what has gone on with hedge funds and roll overs and playing games with alternative realities to the tunes of trillions: Yes, it is likely

**T:** where did it come from? How did it get there?

**R:** St Germain knows more than he does!

**T:** KOS waits for someone

On Rumour Mill News - title: **Fed audit:** this could get real interesting [SEE BELOW]

**T:** Swiss and Germans are desperate - the Greeks said they would not take it

**Caller:** the Germans are increasingly concerned - their gold is 83 levels below the street! How much of said gold is being held?

**Caller:** about Dennis Kucinich -

**T:** Dennis is a Dem; the re-districting was done on purpose by the Republicans

- The lady is a good person; they worked together - more of her district was in the new district
- fine that she is holding this position

**Caller:** he will have a higher position: Head of the Department of Peace /replaces the Pentagon!

**T:** • St John's Wort is so called because it was named after John the Beloved, the most perfectly balanced of all the disciples

- Hardest for men to be balanced because of the way being masculine has been twisted
- current leaders are not a good example.

**T:** March 15<sup>th</sup>

- Thom Hartmann is changing - still on Free Speech, but will be in afternoon so there is room in morning for other programs
- Remember when Michael Moore got on Situation Room / Wolf Blitzer

**Mother Sekhmet:**

**T:** asks that we leave all the negative stuff behind, take only the best ahead!

**Mo:** The story of creation is ongoing in terms of what we are experiencing in our bodies, in our universe, as we watch all timelines dissolve and others converging into one timeline & at a certain given point, we can walk into a bar in downtown manhattan and no one will thing anything of having someone with fur or blue skin or wings walk in

- In this moment, this story is turning up side down, inside out and right side up:
  - it is the whole issue about who and what we are: Kennet, Zudiachus, Mother - why we are witnessing the events in Syria, Bahrain, Darfur, Sudan, Tunisia, Egypt
  - it is about the return of the Goddess and the return of what is her story about how this reality from the mitichlorians, in and of themselves, the mitochondria said they wish to experience this alongside each other
- It is occurring in spite of our children's issues with self and the excess emotional, spiritual baggage that goes along with the story
  - when we said ET 101 - we said "a piece of cake: and promptly lost the instruction book when we came into this dimension
- Single roll of the dice: snake eyes or a lucky 7? It is about that roll in this moment -our choice
  - We are the ones rolling these dice and it is about serendipity that has come up - we all know the outcome of the story, how it has been through the wringer and out the other side: the rack!
- In terms of the issues at hand and where we are at this moment concerning that roll of the dice, we said

we would do this and come through it with flying colours; Indeed we have

- Now comes the biggest test as we watch our fellow travellers on the path: it's about the zen thing of one hand clapping and watching your master go insane before our eyes; we watch them lose it every second of the day and their intensity about how far they can insert the iron fist
  - what they have has already turned to sand, and they are turning to stone as they have seen the gorgon as in the story of Perseus or the Iliad: legends and stories all coming together in a blur
- We are creator gods along side Mother; we never lost our divinity, we took the blue pill and forgot about reality - now it's time to take the red pill and step out of the matrix
- This story is the real deal: no prizes, no glorious games with issues on the big screen; this is the real reality show can't get any bigger! We said we would do this, the gauntlet is in our hands, Children of Ra - pick it up and use it.
- Our planet is not broke, nor are we - the 1% have played with the riches of Solomon and it comes full circle and is to be given back to the people of the planet, and our children will make amends - the void, our yanni - the last roll of the dice means there is nowhere to go except to make peace with yourself
- If you want to rant about something, rant about the eons of time you believed the lies : the fact is that if you believe the lies, you crucify yourself with your thoughts that you continue this insane role
- The planet and inhabitants are ascending; this small group of people, our children, will deal with things at the other side of the vortex, the Centre of the Milky Way Galaxy, and it has already begun
  - just a glancing blow of the frequencies from Sol today: Class X5 we heard today, concerning the solar flares; - as the force fields are already moving in a variable vortex around this planet concerning how things play themselves out; it is about which way the wind blows in terms of that song
    - it is IN this moment, we would just say - deal with the frequencies which are coming up which bring up the issues for healing - it is of the utmost importance that you bring this one into the heart cave - the movements are in place, and we ride the tiger in this moment, and she knows you are travelling on her back,
    - Yet note that this is done in a most graceful ways - these ones from Nibiru: it is the final hours, it is with the greatest words - love them in these moments, now.

**T:** talking about the prophecy of Moses

**Mo:** Mahdi is here

**T:** Ch 12 Book of Mormon - Jesus called and commissioned the 12; he delivers to the neophytes

- his teachings transcend and take precedent over the law of Moses
- Nothing but Joy, Joy, Joy!

Gas is \$5 / gal and over in some places

**Mo:** the least among us is the most important

**T:** Humanity commanded to be perfect, even he and his father are perfect

**Mo:** the 1% have nothing but forgiveness, but it is as they have blinders on - love them on their way out.

- It is all about this one story: the healing of the people here that reflects out to 23 super universes in this moment, now.
- The final stage being played out here in grand passion yet, it seems, there is a small group awake, witnessing it -
- the roar is of the people on the planet who will no longer watch the people of the Tigris and Euphrates sit in their own blood.

**Cathy:** a comment about the energy of Bob Dean and Richard Stone of Kerry Cassidy's Project Camelot interview: military men talking about good ETs and bad ETs - being spoken out loud by these 2 men; one who died and came back and told Kerry do not worry about what you are worrying about [means Ashtar Command]

**Mo:** Bob Dean and the other have sat in the briefing rooms of our craft discussing how we best situate ourselves so we can work together - you may see us walk the halls of the west wing and may not look like you, quite

- Now the stories may begin: Star Academy is now recruiting and you are recalling yourselves to duty and long ago, you knew you would show up. Now you will take up the gauntlet again [find the instruction book] - be an ambassador, work on the craft -
  - these ones are beginning to share the story, which is not of Armageddon, this is an ancient ghost story that is being put to rest
- Lucifer / Jehovah has been brought back to love; a poor version of Lucifer is before us
- The only one is the Sirian Commander who holds the key - it is about the Mahdi, the return of the Cosmic Christ, Lord Maitreya - has nothing to do with how many ways can we insult the black man in the White House, and make idle death threats which are at the point
  - as the energies increase, we are only going to increase our presence and the next time you turn around, you might be the ones changing your shorts!
  - We are here, going nowhere - there are more of us
  - Get used to it; get over the issues of prejudice - this is not a warning, this is a promise: we are part of here, we are part of these cultures, these understandings, just as you are part of this tory
  - the two men you speak of have witnessed how many can get together under the banner of love, no matter what they look like
- **Drop the issues about race; this** is the main story now - how can we go anywhere else
  - he was born at 19.5 degrees which is all Hoagland spoke of
  - birth certificate is about the fact that Malcolm X is his dad
  - it is about the Aboriginal Moabite nation
- why is it Aristide is an outlaw in his own country; it is about magic of the voodoo and the frequencies of love which come from Mother Zudiachus

**Cathy:** just confirming what we all know that people are speaking out

- yet these 2 are military men now retired who are speaking out on Project Camelot - Bob Dean and Clifford Stone - an interview worth hearing - speaking about the races which have been killed

**T:** we will hear it on Saturday

**T:** went from Ch 11 to Ch 20 where it was talking about Jesus coming to the Americas

- then it says on Ch 21 that Is-ra-el shall be gathered and the gentiles shall be established as a free people in America; Jesus came here 2000 years ago and we have been coming here ever since; The Children of Israel which we all are from the known world of Persia back then includes all this other stuff & not vying for power

**Mo:** they tried to hide the fact that they were the Khazar empire and put on a disguise.

- the peoples of the Americas, the gentiles - they shall be saved as they believe and as they obey otherwise they shall be cut off and destroyed
- Israel shall build the new Jerusalem - which is Santa Fe: the City of Cebola [means city of gold which is knowledge - City of the treasures of Eldorado = higher knowledge, spiritual infusion - and the lost tribes shall return

**CONCLUSION** from Mother

**Cathy:** **Closing:** and there have been 10 years of Stargate Round Table

2012, March 8

## **FED Audit? This could get real interesting--Swiss and Germans want their gold (supposedly stored at the NY Fed) returned**

**Posted By: Watchman**

**Date: Thursday, 8-Mar-2012 22:28:33**

Switzerland is joining the Germans in demanding that their physical gold being stored at the Fed be returned.

Earlier today, we reported that Germans are increasingly concerned that their gold, at over 3,400 tons a majority of which is likely stored in the vault 80 feet below street level of 33 Liberty (recently purchased by the Fed with freshly printed money at far higher than prevailing commercial real estate rates for the Downtown NY area), may be in jeopardy, and will likely soon formally enquire just how much of said gold is really held by the Fed. As it turns out, Germany is not alone: as part of the “Rettet Unser Schweizer Gold“, or the “Gold Initiative”: A Swiss Initiative to Secure the Swiss National Bank’s Gold Reserves initiative, launched recently by four members of the Swiss parliament, the Swiss people should have a right to vote on 3 simple things: i) keeping the Swiss gold physically in Switzerland; ii) forbidding the SNB from selling any more of its gold reserves, and iii) the SNB has to hold at least 20% of its assets in gold. Needless to say the implications of this vote actually succeeding are comparable to the Greeks holding a referendum on whether or not to be in the Eurozone. And everyone saw how quickly G-Pap was “eliminated” within hours of making that particular threat. Yet it begs the question: how many more international grassroots outcries for if not repatriation, then at least an audit of foreign gold held by the New York Fed have to take place, before Goldman’s (and New York Fed’s) Bill Dudley relents? And why are the international central banks not disclosing what their people demand, if only to confirm that the gold is present and accounted for, even if it is at the Federal Reserve?

<http://blog.alexanderhiggins.com/2012/03/07/switzerland-gold-york-fed-1882/>

<http://citizendia.org/Purim>

**Purim** (Hebrew פּוּרִים *Pûrîm* "lots", related to [Akkadian](#) *pûru*) is a [Jewish holiday](#) that commemorates the deliverance of the [Jewish](#) people of the ancient [Persian Empire](#) from [Haman's](#) plot to annihilate them, as recorded in the [Biblical Book of Esther](#) (*Megillat Esther*). According to the story, Haman [cast lots](#) to determine the day upon which to exterminate the Jews.

Purim is celebrated annually according to the [Hebrew calendar](#) on the 14th day of the [Hebrew month](#) of [Adar](#), the day following the victory of the Jews over their enemies; as with all Jewish holidays, Purim begins at sundown on the previous secular day. In cities that were protected by a surrounding wall at the time of [Joshua](#), including [Shushan](#) (Susa) and [Jerusalem](#), Purim is celebrated on the 15th of the month, known as *Shushan Purim*. Purim is characterized by public recitation of the Book of Esther (*keriat ha-megilla*), giving mutual gifts of food and drink (*mishloach manot*), giving charity to the poor (*mattanot la-eyyonim*), and a celebratory meal (*se'udat Purim*);<sup>[1]</sup> other customs include drinking wine, [wearing](#) of masks and costumes, and public celebration.

Jewish exiles from the [Kingdom of Judah](#) who had been living in the [Babylonian captivity](#) (6th Century BCE) found themselves under [Persian](#) rule after [Babylonia](#) was in turn conquered by the [Persian Empire](#). According to the Book of Esther, [Haman](#), royal [vizier](#) to King [Ahasuerus](#) / Xerxes,<sup>[2]</sup> planned to kill the Jews, but his plans were foiled by [Esther](#), who was made queen after Xerxes kicked out his previous queen, Vashti, and [Mordechai](#), the palace gatekeeper for Xerxes who raised Esther when her parents died, though he was her cousin. The Jews were delivered from being the victims of an evil decree against them and were instead allowed by the King to destroy their enemies, and the day after the battle was designated as a day of feasting and rejoicing.

## History

### The Persian Empire

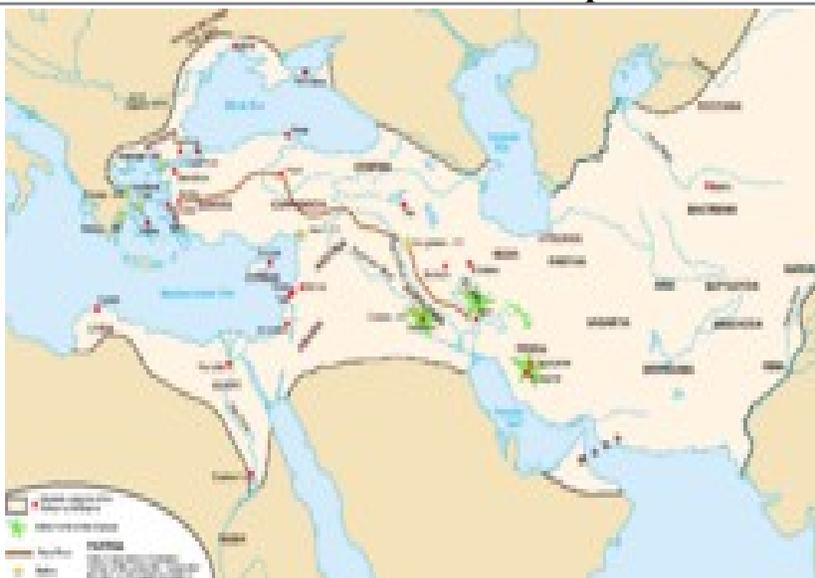
The [Achaemenid Empire](#) (Persian: هخامنشیان IPA: [haxʊmanɛʃijɒn]) (559 BCE–330 BCE) was the first of the [Persian Empires](#) to rule over significant portions of [Greater Iran](#), the famous foe of the Greek city states (see [Greco-Persian Wars](#)). It was the first of many successor Persian Empires to be accounted as such and to figure importantly in history—most often as a local superpower, or major regional power. It is also the state which freed the [Israelites](#) ([Jews](#)) from their [Babylonian](#) captivity.

Encompassing approximately 7.5 million square kilometers, the Achaemenid Empire was territorially the largest empire of [classical antiquity](#). At the height of its power, the Persian Empire spanned three continents, and eventually incorporated the following territories: In the east, modern [Afghanistan](#) and beyond into central Asia, and [Pakistan](#). In the north and west, all of [Asia Minor](#) (modern [Turkey](#)), the upper Balkans peninsula ([Thrace](#)), and most of the Black Sea coastal regions. In the west and southwest the territories of modern [Iraq](#), northern [Saudi Arabia](#), [Jordan](#), [Israel](#), [Lebanon](#), [Syria](#), all significant population centers of ancient [Egypt](#) and as far west as portions of [Libya](#).

The empire began as a [vassal state](#) of the [Medes](#) but ended up conquering and enlarging the Median empire to include [Ancient Egypt](#) and [Asia Minor](#). Under [Xerxes I of Persia](#), it came very close to conquering [Ancient](#)

Greece. The Achaemenids were finally overthrown by the conquest of Alexander the Great in 330 BCE.

## Achaemenid Persian Empire



*Achaemenid Empire.*

<b>Languages</b>	<a href="#">Persian</a> , <a href="#">Elamite</a> , <a href="#">Aramaic</a>
<b>Religions</b>	There was no official state religion. <a href="#">Zoroastrianism</a> and numerous others religions, such as <a href="#">Judaism</a> , were practiced.
<b>Capitals</b>	<a href="#">Anshan</a> , <a href="#">Babylon</a> , <a href="#">Persepolis</a> , <a href="#">Pasargadae</a> , <a href="#">Susa</a>
<b>Area</b>	<a href="#">Near East</a>
<b>Existed</b>	559 - 330 BCE

### The Purim story

*Main article: [Book of Esther](#)*

The events leading up to Purim were recorded in the *Megillat Esther* ([Book of Esther](#)), which became the last of the 24 books of the [Tanakh](#) to be canonized by the Sages of the [Great Assembly](#).

The book commences with a six month (180day) drinking feast given by king Ahasuerus, for the army of Persia and Media, for the civil servants and princes in the 127 provinces of his kingdom, at the conclusion of which a seven day drinking feast for the inhabitants of Shushan, rich and poor with a separate drinking feast for the women organised by the Queen Vashti in the pavilion of the Royal courtyard.

At this feast Ahasuerus gets thoroughly drunk and orders his wife [Vashti](#) to display her beauty before the people and the princes. She refuses, and Ahasuerus removes her as queen. He then orders all young women to be presented to him, so he can choose a new queen to replace Vashti. One of these is Esther, who was orphaned at a young age and was being fostered by her cousin [Mordechai](#). She finds favor in the king's eyes, and is made his new wife. Esther does not reveal that she is Jewish. Shortly afterwards, Mordechai discovers a plot by courtiers

Bigthan and Teresh to kill Ahasuerus. They are apprehended and hanged, and Mordechai's service to the king is recorded. [3]

Ahasuerus appoints [Haman](#), a descendant of [Amalekite](#) king [Agag](#), as his prime minister. Mordechai, who sits at the palace gates, falls into Haman's disfavor as he refuses to bow down to him. Having found out that Mordechai is Jewish, Haman plans to kill not just Mordechai but the entire Jewish minority in the empire. He obtains Ahasuerus' permission to execute this plan, against payment of ten thousand talents of silver, and he casts lots to choose the date on which to do this - the thirteenth of the month of Adar. When Mordechai finds out about the plans he orders widespread penitence and fasting. Esther discovers what has transpired; she requests that all Jews fast and pray for three days together with her, and on the third day she seeks an audience with Ahasuerus, during which she invites him to a feast in the company of Haman. During the feast, she asks them to attend a further feast the next evening. Meanwhile, Haman is again offended by Mordechai and builds a gallows for him. [4]

That night, Ahasuerus suffers from insomnia, and when the court's records are read to him to help him sleep, he learns of the services rendered by Mordechai in the previous plot against his life. Ahasuerus is told that Mordechai has not received any recognition for saving the king's life. Just then, Haman appears, and King Ahasuerus asks Haman what should be done for the man that the King wishes to honor. Thinking that the man that the King wishes to honor is himself, Haman says that the man should be dressed in the king's royal robes and led around on the king's royal horse. To Haman's horror, the king instructs Haman to do so to Mordechai.

Later that evening, Ahasuerus and Haman attend Esther's second banquet, at which she reveals that she is Jewish and that Haman is planning to exterminate her people, which includes her. Ahasuerus orders Haman hanged on the gallows that he had prepared for Mordechai. The previous decree against the Jews cannot be annulled, and the King allows Mordechai and Esther to write another decree as they wish. They write one that allows the Jews to defend themselves during attacks. As a result, on 13 Adar, five hundred attackers and Haman's ten sons are killed in Shushan. Throughout the empire an additional 75,000 are slain. On the 14th, another 300 are killed in Shushan. [5]

Mordechai assumes a prominent position in Ahasuerus' court, and institutes an annual commemoration of the delivery of the Jewish people from annihilation. [6]

## The holiday

The holiday of Purim has been held in high esteem by [Judaism](#) at all times; some have held that when all the prophetic and hagiographical works are forgotten, the Book of Esther will still be remembered, and, accordingly, the Feast of Purim will continue to be observed ([Jerusalem Talmud](#), Megillah 1/5a; [Maimonides](#), [Mishneh Torah](#), Megilla).

Like [Hanukkah](#), Purim has more of a national than a religious character, and its status as a holiday is on a lesser level than those days ordained holy by the [Torah](#). Accordingly, business transactions and even manual labor are allowed on Purim, though in certain places restrictions have been imposed on work ([Shulkhan Arukh](#), [Orach Chayim](#), 696). A special prayer ("*Al ha-Nissim*"—"For the Miracles") is inserted into the [Amidah](#) during evening, morning and afternoon prayers, as well as is included in the [Birkat Hamazon](#) ("Grace after Meals. ")

The four main [mitzvot](#) of the day are:

1. Listening to the public reading, usually in [synagogue](#), of the [Book of Esther](#) in the evening and again in the following morning (*k'riat megilla*)
2. Sending food gifts to friends (*mishloach manot*)
3. Giving charity to the poor (*matanot la'evyonim*)
4. Eating a festive meal (*se`udah*)

## Reading of the Megilla

The first religious ceremony ordained for the celebration of Purim is the reading of the Book of Esther (the "Megilla") in the [synagogue](#), a regulation ascribed in the [Talmud](#) (Megilla 2a) to the Sages of the [Great Assembly](#), of which [Mordecai](#) is reported to have been a member. Originally this enactment was for the 14th of Adar only; later, however, Rabbi [Joshua ben Levi](#) (3d century CE) prescribed that the Megillah should also be read on the eve of Purim. Further, he obliged women to attend the reading of the Megillah, inasmuch as it was a woman, Queen [Esther](#), through whom the miraculous deliverance of the Jews was accomplished.

In the [Mishnah](#), the recitation of a benediction on the reading of the Megilla is not yet a universally recognized obligation. However, the [Talmud](#), a later work, prescribed three benedictions before the reading and one benediction after the reading. The Talmud added other provisions. For example, the reader is to pronounce the names of the ten sons of [Haman](#) ([Esther 9:7-10](#)) in one breath, to indicate their simultaneous death. The congregation was to recite aloud with the reader the verses [2:5](#), [8:15-16](#), and [10:3](#), which relate the origin of Mordechai and his triumph.

The Megilla is read with a [cantillation](#) (a traditional chant) differing from that used in the customary reading of the [Torah](#). In some places, however, it is not chanted, but is read like a letter, because of the name *iggeret* ("epistle") which is applied ([Esther 9:26,29](#)) to the Book of Esther. It has been also customary since the time of the early Medieval era of the [Geonim](#) to unroll the whole Megilla before reading it, in order to give it the appearance of an epistle. According to [Halakha](#) ("Jewish law"), the Megillah may be read in any language intelligible to the audience.

"Observance of Purim in a German Synagogue of the Eighteenth Century", from [Bodenschatz](#), *Kirchliche Verfassung*, 1748.

According to the Mishnah (Megillah 30b), [Exodus 17:8-16](#), the story of the attack on the Jews by [Amalek](#), the progenitor of Haman, is also to be read.

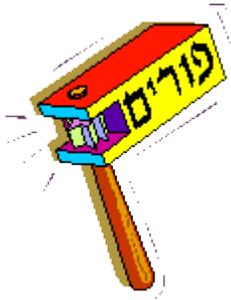
Purim gave rise to many religious compositions, some of which were incorporated into the [liturgy](#). These include a large number of hymns intended for the public service. Other writings (dramas, plays, etc. ) intended for general edification, both in Hebrew and in other languages, have been composed as well.

By the 18th century in eastern [Romania](#) and some other parts of Eastern Europe, Purim plays (called *Purimspiels*) had evolved into broad-ranging satires with music and dance, precursors to [Yiddish theater](#), for which the story of Esther was little more than a pretext: indeed, by the mid-19th century, some were even based on other stories, such as [Joseph](#) sold by his brothers, [Daniel](#), or the [Binding of Isaac](#). Since satire was deemed inappropriate for the synagogue itself, they were usually performed outdoors in its court. Purimspiels are still performed in many communities.

### Boisterousness in the synagogue

Partly due to the festival's national rather than religious character, it was appropriate to celebrate the occasion by feasting. Purim is an occasion on which much joyous license is permitted within the walls of the synagogue itself. For example, during the public service in many congregations, when the reader of the Megillah mentions Haman (54 occurrences), there is boisterous hissing, stamping, and rattling. This practice traces its origin to the [Tosafists](#) (the leading French and German rabbis of the 13th century). In accordance with a passage in the [Midrash](#), where the verse "Thou shalt blot out the remembrance of [Amalek](#)" ([Deuteronomy 25:19](#)) is explained to mean "even from wood and stones", the

rabbis introduced the custom of writing the name of Haman, the offspring of Amalek, on two smooth stones and of knocking or rubbing them constantly until the name was blotted out.



A depiction of a Purim "*ra'ashan*", a noisemaker which is spun by hand, often made of wood and used only when Haman's name is mentioned.

Ultimately, the stones fell into disuse, with the knocking alone remaining. Some wrote the name of Haman on the soles of their shoes, and at the mention of the name stamped with their feet as a sign of contempt. For noisemaking, others used a noisy rattle, called a *ra'ashan* (from the Hebrew *ra-ash*, meaning "noise") and in [Yiddish](#) a *gragger/greggar* (from the [Polish](#) *grzęgarz*). Some of the rabbis protested against these uproarious excesses, considering them a disturbance of public worship, but the custom of using [noisemakers](#) in synagogue on Purim is now almost universal.

Purim is also a time for other unusual goings-on. For example, some prayer-leaders will sing prayers in ways that would be considered sacrilegious on any other occasion during the year (perhaps with the exception of [Simchat Torah](#)); for example, singing some prayers to the tune of widely-known songs, to add to the levity—or employing melodies used on other Jewish holidays.

## **Burning of Haman's effigy**

Outside the synagogue, the pranks indulged in on Purim by both children and adults have been carried even to a greater extreme. Some of them date from the Talmudic period. As early as the 5th century, and especially in the Geonic period (9th and 10th centuries), it was a custom to burn Haman in [effigy](#) on Purim, semblant of the British customs for [Guy Fawkes Day](#). The burning custom, which persisted into the 20th century, is no longer practiced.

In Italy, Jewish children used to arrange themselves in rows, and pelt one another with nuts; while the adults rode through the streets with fir-branches in their hands, shouted, or blew trumpets round a doll representing Haman and which was finally burned with due solemnity at the stake. In [Frankfurt am Main, Germany](#), it was customary to make a house of [wax](#) wherein the figures of Haman and his executioner, also of wax, were placed side by side. The whole was then put on the [bimah](#), where stood also the wax figures of Zeresh (Haman's wife) and two guards—one to her right and the other to her left—all attired in a flimsy manner and with pipes in their mouths. As soon as the reader began to read the Megillah, the house with all its occupants was set on fire, to the enjoyment of the spectators.

These customs often aroused the wrath of Christians, who interpreted them as a disguised attempt to ridicule [Jesus](#) and the Cross. Prohibitions were issued against these displays; e. g. , under the reign of [Flavius Augustus Honorius](#) (395-423) and of [Theodosius II](#) (408-450) comp. [Johann Jakob Schudt](#), l. c. ii. 309, 317, and Cassel, l. c. ) To avoid danger, the rabbis themselves tried to abolish these customs, often even calling the magistracy to their aid, as in [London](#) in 1783.

## Women and Megilla reading

Women have an obligation to hear the Megilla because "they also were involved in that miracle. " Most Orthodox communities, including Modern Orthodox ones, however, generally do not allow women to lead the Megilla reading except in rare circumstances owing to the notion of "Kavod HaTzibbur". Authorities who hold that women should not read the Megilla for themselves, because of a question as to which blessing they should recite upon the reading, nonetheless agree that they have an obligation to hear it read. According to these authorities if women, or men for that matter, cannot attend the services in the synagogue, the Megilla should be read for them in private by any male over the age of thirteen. Often in Orthodox communities there is a special public reading only for women, conducted either in a private home or in a synagogue, but the Megilla is read by a man.

Some Modern Orthodox leaders have held that women can serve as public Megillah readers. Women's megilla readings have become increasingly common in more liberal [Modern Orthodox Judaism](#), though women may only read for other women. [7]

## Giving of food gifts and charity

Main article: [Mishloach manot](#)



Gaily wrapped baskets of sweets, snacks and other foodstuffs given as *mishloach manot* on Purim day.

The Book of Esther prescribes "the sending of portions one man to another, and gifts to the poor" (9:22). Over time, this [mitzvah](#) has become one of the most prominent features of the celebration of Purim.

According to the [halakha](#), each Jew over the age of [bar or bat mitzvah](#) must send two different, ready-to-eat foods to one friend, and two charitable donations (either money or food) to two poor people, to fulfill these two mitzvot. The gifts to friends are called [mishloach manot](#) ("sending of portions"), and often include wine and pastries; alternately, sweets, snacks, salads or any foodstuff qualifies.

Although the sending of *mishloach manot* is technically limited to one gift for one friend, for some the custom has evolved into a major gift-giving event. Families often prepare dozens of homemade and store-bought food baskets to deliver to friends, neighbors, and relatives on Purim day. Charitable organizations, [synagogues](#), Jewish schools and other groups also tap into the spirit of gift-giving by turning *mishloach manot* into a fundraising device. These organizations collect money from members and either send out actual food gifts to other members, or *mishloach manot* "certificates" which indicate that a donation has been made to their organization.

To fulfill the mitzvah of giving charity to two poor people, one can give either food or money equivalent to the amount of food that is eaten at a regular meal. It is better to spend more on charity than on the giving of *mishloach manot*.

In the synagogue, regular collections of charity are made on the festival and the money is distributed among the needy. No distinction is made among the poor; anyone who is willing to accept charity is allowed to participate. It is obligatory upon the poorest Jew, even one who is himself dependent on charity, to give to other poor people.

## The Purim meal

On Purim day, typically toward evening, a festive meal called *Se'udat Purim* is held, often with wine as the prominent beverage; consequently, drunkenness is not uncommon at this meal. The jovial character of this feast is illustrated in the saying of the Talmud (Megilla 7b) stating that one should drink on Purim until he can no longer distinguish between (*ad delo yada*) the phrases, *arur Haman* ("Cursed is Haman") and *baruch Mordechai* ("Blessed is Mordecai"). In [Hebrew](#) these phrases have the same [gematria](#) ("numerical value"), and some authorities, including the *Be'er Hagolah* and Rabbi [Avraham Gombiner](#) known as the *Magen Avraham*, have ruled that one should drink wine until he is unable to calculate these numerical values.

This saying was codified by Rabbis [Isaac Alfasi](#) (the "Rif"), [Asher ben Jehiel](#) (the "Rosh"), [Jacob ben Asher](#) (the "Tur"), [Shulchan Aruch](#), [Orach Chayim](#) 695, and is interpreted simply (as explained above) by the [Chatam Sofer](#). This interpretation of the Talmudic statement, or the acceptance of the statement itself, is disputed (for various reasons) by the [Tosafists](#) (based on the [Jerusalem Talmud](#)), [Maimonides](#), Rabbeinu Ephraim, *Ba'al HaMa'or*, [Nissim of Gerona](#) (the "Ran"), [Orchot Chaim](#), *Be'er Hagolah*, the *Magen Avraham*, Rabbis [David HaLevi Segal](#) (the "Taz"), [Moses Isserles](#) (the "Rema"), [Vilna Gaon](#), [Samuel Eidels](#) (the "Maharsha"), Rashash, *Tzeidah LaDerech*, *Hagahot Maimoniyot*, *Ra'avyah*, *Korban N'tan'el*, [Yoel Sirkis](#) (the "Bach"), [Yaakov ben Moshe Levi Moelin](#) (the "Maharil"), *P'ri M'gadim*, *Kol Bo*, *Chochmat Mano'ach*, [Yisrael Meir Kagan](#) in *Mishnah Berurah* and others. These authorities all advocate drinking wine in some quantity, but all (excepting *Hagahot Maimoniyot* and *Ra'avyah*) discourage the level of drunkenness suggested by the *Chatam Sofer*. The *Rema* says that one should only drink a little more than he is used to drinking, and then try to fall asleep whereupon he certainly will not be able to tell the difference between the two phrases indicated by the Talmud. This position is shared by the *Kol Bo* and *Mishnah Berurah*, and is similar to that of [Maimonides](#).

Many kinds of merry-making and mockery are indulged in on Purim, so that among the masses it is believed that "on Purim everything is allowed." However, Jewish leaders such as Rabbi [Yisrael Meir Kagan](#) known as the [Chofetz Chaim](#) and modern-day [rosh yeshivas](#) insist on decorum even in the midst of the merry-making. According to some halakhic rulings, men should not dress in women's attire (nor vice-versa). Those rabbis that allow men to dress in women's attire on Purim do not allow men to completely disguise themselves as women but require that they remain perceptibly male. Ribald jokes remain forbidden, as during the rest of the year. Comically denigrating one's fellow, teachers, or Jewish leaders, even in the "spirit" of Purim, is forbidden. [8]

## Masquerading



A typical Purim street scene in a [Jerusalem](#) neighborhood.

Most evidence suggests that the concept of "masquerading in costumes" (on Purim) is a fairly recent addition to Purim, which was added sometime during the past five hundred years - in Europe. The exact date is debated. The practice probably did not exist in Middle Eastern countries earlier than 150 years ago. Sources in the oral law (or even some mystical works), which describe the validity of "hiding" (as it relates to Purim) are referenced to support this practice.

Dressing up in masks and costumes is one of the most entertaining customs of the Purim holiday. Children in particular enjoy dressing up as the protagonists in the Book of Esther, including Queen Esther and Mordecai; other Biblical personalities such as King [David](#) and the [Kohen Gadol](#) ("High Priest"), and modern-day costumes from flower girls to [indigenous peoples of the Americas](#) to animals to policemen.

Costumes and masks are worn to disguise the wearers' identities. Mistaken identity plays an important role in The Book of Esther, as Esther hid her cultural origins from the king, Mordecai hid his knowledge of all the world's languages (which allowed Bigthan and Teresh to discuss their plot openly in his presence), and Haman was mistaken for Mordechai when he led Mordechai through the streets of the capital city of [Shushan](#). According to the Talmud, Haman's daughter, thinking that it must be Mordechai leading her father around, dumped a chamber pot on her father's head as he passed by, and, realizing her error, committed suicide.

The one who is truly hidden behind all the events of the Megillah is God. The Jewish Sages referred to His role as [הסתר פנים](#) (*hester panim*, or "hiding of the Face", which is also hinted at in a word play (Megilat Hester ) regarding the Hebrew name for the Book of Esther, *Megillat Esther*—literally, "revelation of [that which is] hidden"). Although Jews believe that everything turned out in the end for the best as a direct result of Divine intervention (that is, a series of miracles), the Book of Esther lacks any mention of God's name and appears to have been nothing more than a result of natural occurrences. On the other hand, Jewish philosophy and scriptural commentators believe that the reason for the omission of God's name is in order to emphasize the very point that God remained hidden throughout this series of events, but was nonetheless present and played a large role in the outcome of the story. Furthermore, this lesson can be taken into consideration on a much larger scale: Throughout [Jewish history](#), and especially in the present [Jewish diaspora](#), God's presence has been felt more at certain times than at others. Megillat Esther (and the omission of God's name in it) serves to show that although God may not be conspicuously present at times, He nevertheless plays (and has played) an important role in everyone's lives and in the future of the Jewish nation. In remembrance of how God remained hidden throughout the Purim miracle, Jews dress up on Purim and many hide their faces.



Purim revellers in costume, from a 1657 print.

The custom of masquerading on Purim was first introduced among the Italian Jews about the close of the fifteenth century under the influence of the Roman carnival. This custom spread over all countries where Jews lived, except perhaps the Orient. The first among Jewish authors to mention this custom is [Judah ben Eliezer ha-Levi Minz](#) (d. 1508 at Venice) (known as the "Mahari Minz") in his Responsa no. 17, quoted by Moses Isserles on Orach Chayim 696:8. He expresses the opinion that, since the purpose of the masquerade is only merrymaking, it should not be considered a transgression of the Biblical law regarding dress. Although some authorities issued prohibitions against this custom, the people did not heed them, and the more lenient view prevailed. The custom is still practiced today amongst religious Jews of all denominations, and among both religious and non-religious [Israelis](#).

In Israel there are Purim parades (Adlayada) , and men, women, boys and girls dress in costumes and masks and celebrate publicly.

## Songs

Songs associated with Purim are based on sources that are Talmudic, liturgical and cultural.

Traditional Purim songs include *Mishenichnas Adar marbim be-simcha* ("From the beginning of [the Hebrew month of] Adar, joy increases"—Mishnah Taanith 4:1) and *LaYehudim haisah orah ve-simchah ve-sasson ve-kar* ("The Jews had light and gladness, joy and honor"—Esther 8:16). The prayer, *Shoshanat Yaakov*, read at the conclusion of the Megillah reading, is often sung to various popular melodies.

## Traditional foods



Homemade hamantaschen

During Purim it is traditional to serve triangular pastries, called [Hamantaschen](#) ("Haman's pockets") in [Yiddish](#) and *Oznei Haman* ("Haman's ears") in [modern Hebrew](#). A sweet cookie dough is rolled out, cut into circles, and traditionally filled with a sweet [poppyseed](#) filling, then wrapped up into a triangular shape with the filling either hidden or showing.



Costumed sellers graggin a [ratchet](#) beside their [hamantash](#) display in the [Mahane Yehuda Market](#) in [Jerusalem](#)

(Seeds and nuts are customarily eaten on Purim, as the [Talmud](#) tells us that Queen [Esther](#) ate only these foodstuffs in the palace of [Ahasuerus](#), since she had no access to [kosher foods](#).) More recently, prunes, dates, apricots, and chocolate fillings have been introduced. This pastry belongs to the [Ashkenazi](#) cuisine, its [Sephardi](#) equivalent is a thin dough called [Fazuelos](#).



[Kreplach](#) shaped in the form of [hamantashen](#) float in a bowl of [chicken soup](#) made for the Purim [seudah](#).

[Kreplach](#), a kind of [dumpling](#) filled with cooked meat, chicken or liver and served in soup, are also traditionally served by [Ashkenazi Jews](#) on Purim.

## Purim Torah and Purim spiel

*Main articles: [Purim Torah](#) and [Purim spiel](#)*

Some Jewish communities spice up the Purim celebrations with comical, yet erudite, "Torah teachings" known as [Purim Torah](#) which resort to a variety of comedic and linguistic tricks to the amusement of the listeners.

A [Purim spiel](#) is a comedic play that attempts to convey the saga of Purim's origins and its cast of characters. Purim spiels can revolve around anything relating to Jews and Judaism that will bring cheer and comic relief to an audience celebrating the day.

## Focus on children

During the days before Purim, children are often entertained with Purim puppet shows similar to a [Punch and Judy](#) performance where the entire Purim story is presented out by puppeteers using small puppets dressed up as Mordecai, Esther, [Ahasuerus](#), Vashti, Haman and more.

Both before and on Purim, special children's songs (with non-liturgical sources) may be sung:

- *Once There Was a Wicked Wicked Man*
- *Ani Purim*

## Shushan Purim

Shushan Purim (the 15th day of Adar) is the day on which Jews in [Jerusalem](#) and Shushan (in [Iran](#)) celebrate Purim. The Book of Esther explains that while the Jews in unwalled cities fought their enemies on the 13th of Adar and rested on the 14th, the Jews in the walled capital city of Shushan spent the 13th and 14th defeating their enemies, and rested on the 15th (Esther 9:20-22).

Although Mordecai and Esther decreed that only walled cities should celebrate Purim on the 15th, in commemoration of the battle in the walled city of Shushan, the Jewish sages noted that Jerusalem, the focus of Jewish life, lay in ruins during the events of the Book of Esther. To make sure that a Persian city was not honored more than Jerusalem, they made the determination of which cities were walled by referring to ancient cities walled during the time of Joshua. This allowed Jerusalem to be included on the basis of that criteria; paradoxically, they included Shushan as the exceptional case since the miracle occurred there, even though it did *not* have a wall in Joshua's time.

The Megillah is also read on the 15th in a number of other cities in Israel—such as [Jaffa](#), [Acre](#), [Safed](#), [Tiberias](#) and [Hebron](#)—but only as a custom based on a doubt over whether these cities were walled or sufficiently walled during the time of Joshua. These cities therefore celebrate Purim on the 14th, and the additional Megillah reading on the 15th is a stringency. Jews in these cities do not recite the blessings over the reading of the Megillah on the 15th.

## Purim Ha-Me-shulash

When the main Purim date, the 14th of Adar, comes out on a Friday, then in Jerusalem there is a situation called Purim HaMeshulash - a 3 part Purim celebration. Shushan Purim is then on the 16th day, rather than the 15th day, of Adar. Each day has a different focus. The giving of money can't occur on [Shabbat](#), the Jewish Sabbath, and since it would be unfair to make the poor wait a day, it is moved to the 14th of Adar. The Megilla reading in Jerusalem takes place on the 14th as well. The "Al HaNissim" addition to the Amidah and Birkat Hamzon is said on Shabbat (Friday Night and Saturday) along with the traditional Purim day Torah portion being read in shul on Shabbat day. Sunday (the "Meshulash day") contains the obligation of Mishloach Manot and the Seudat Purim (the festive Purim meal).

These are not very common; they cluster (about every 2-3 years) and then they leave gaps as large as 13 years. The last occurrence was in [2008](#). The next occurrence will be in [2021](#).

## *Purim Katan*

In [leap years on the Hebrew calendar](#), Purim is celebrated in the second month of Adar. (The [Karaites](#), however, celebrate it in the first month of Adar. ) The 14th of the first Adar is then called *Purim Katan* ("Little Purim" in [Hebrew](#)) and the 15th is *Shushan Purim Katan*, for which there no set observances but have a minor holiday aspect to it. The distinctions between the first and the second Purim in leap years are mentioned in the [Mishnah](#) (Megillah 1/46b; compare Orach Chayim 697).

## Fasting before and after Purim

*Main article: [Fast of Esther](#)*

The [Fast of Esther](#), observed before Purim, on the 13th of Adar, is an original part of the Purim celebration, referred to in Esther 9:31-32. The first who mentions the Fast of Esther is Rabbi [Achai Gaon](#) (Acha of Shabcha) (8th century CE) in She'iltot 4; the reason there given for its institution is based on an interpretation of [Esther 9:18](#), [Esther 9:31](#) and Talmud Megillah 2a: "The 13th was the time of gathering", which gathering is explained to have had also the purpose of public prayer and fasting. Some, however, used to fast three days in commemoration of the fasting of Esther; but as fasting was prohibited during the month of Nisan, the first and second Mondays and the Thursday following Purim were chosen. The fast of the 13th is still commonly observed; but when that date falls on a Sabbath, the fast is pushed forward to the preceding Thursday, Friday being needed to prepare for the Sabbath and the following Purim festival.

## Other "Purims"

In addition to the official Purim, other occasions arose to celebrate deliverance of communities or families from the threat of annihilation. These celebrations were called Purims:

### Public / Communal

Until recently, many Jewish communities around the world celebrated local "Purims" that commemorated its deliverance from a particular [anti-semitic](#) ruler or group. The best known is *Purim Vintz*, traditionally celebrated in Frankfurt am Main, one week after the regular Purim. This commemorates the [Fettmilch uprising](#) (1616-1620), in which one [Vincenz Fettmilch](#) attempted to exterminate the Jewish community. [\[9\]](#) According to some sources, the influential Rabbi [Moses Sofer](#) (the *Hatam Sofer*), who was born in [Frankfurt](#), celebrated Purim Vintz every year, even when he served as a rabbi in [Pressburg](#).

### Private / Family

Many Jewish families have also had "family Purims" throughout the centuries, celebrated at home, whereby they celebrate their escape from persecution, an accident, or any other type of misfortune.

For example, in [Krakow](#), Poland, Rabbi [Yom Tov Lipmann Heller](#) (1579-1654) asked that his family henceforth celebrate a private Purim, marking the end of his many troubles, including having faced trumped-up charges. [\[10\]](#) Since Purim is preceded by a fast day, the rabbi (known as the *Tosfos Yom Tov* because of his work of the same name) also directed his descendants to have a (private) fast day, the 5th day of Tamuz, marking one of his imprisonments (1629), this one lasting for 40 days. [\[11\]\[12\]](#)

## References

1. [^](#) As noted in Esther 9:22: "[. . .] that they should make them days of feasting and gladness, and of sending portions one to another, and gifts to the poor".
2. [^](#) The name "Ahasuerus" is thought to represent [Xerxes I of Persia](#), although not all sources agree.
3. [^](#) Esther chapters 1 and 2
4. [^](#) Esther chapters 3-5
5. [^](#) Esther chapters 6-9
6. [^](#) Esther chapters 9-10
7. [^](#) Frimer, Ariyeh: *Women's Megilla Reading* (2003) [\[1\]](#)
8. [^](#) Kitov, Eliyahu: *The Festive Purim Meal: Seudat Purim*[\[2\]](#), Union of Orthodox Jewish Congregations of America, accessed March 16, 2006.
9. [^](#) Ulmer, Rivka: *Turmoil, Trauma, and Triumph. The Fettmilch Uprising in Frankfurt am Main*

(1612-1616) According to *Megillas Vintz*. [3]

10. [^ OU: This Day in Jewish History: Adar](#) [4]
11. [^ Fine, Yisroel: It Happened Today](#) [5]
12. [^ Rosenstein, Neil: The Feast and the Fast](#) (1984)

## See also

- [Achaemenid Empire](#)
- [Artaxerxes I of Persia](#)
- [Cyrus the Great](#)
- [Jewish holidays 2000-2050](#)
- [Second Temple](#)
- [Xerxes I of Persia](#)

## External links

- [Complete Purim Guide at chabad.org](#)
- [Orthodox Union: Purim](#)
- [Torah.org: Purim](#)
- [Judaism 101: Purim](#)
- [Complete Beginner's Guide to Purim at Aish.com](#)
- [All About Purim](#)
- [Purim Events Around the World Directory](#)

## Dictionary

### Purim

#### -proper noun

1. (Religion, Jewish) A [Jewish festival](#), celebrated on the 14th day of [Adar](#), [commemorating](#) the [deliverance](#) of the [Persian Jews](#) from a [massacre](#).

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