Alter Rebbe

Torah Ohr - Purim

And Mordechai went out from before the king - וּמָרְדֶּכֵי יָצָא מִּלְּפְנֵי הַמֶּלֶךְ כו

And Mordechai went out from before the king, etc.

Behold, Purim is an aspect of Yom Kippur, for Yom Kippur means "like Purim." And Yom Kippur is repentance, returning from below to above. And on Purim, it is also written, "Pur is the lot," from below to above. And similarly, on Yom Kippur, there are lots cast upon the two goats, etc. But how is it possible to ascend above? Are there not sins that create separation and prevent this? Therefore, it is said, "For Hashem—a sin offering," meaning that even the sin offering, when it ascends to Hashem, is accepted. For above, even darkness does not darken, for there, there is no darkness, as all is one there. However, while it is true that above there is no darkness, how is it possible to ascend there?

וּמָרְדֵּכִי יָצָא מִּלְּפְנֵי הַמֶּלֶךְ כוּ'. הְנֵּה פּוּרִים הוּא
בְּחִינַת יוֹם הַכִּפּוּרִים כִּי יוֹם הַכִּפּוּרִים פֵּירוּשׁוֹ כְּמוֹ
פּוּרִים. וְיוֹם הַכִּפּוּרִים הּוּא תְּשׁוּבָה שֶׁשָׁב מִמֵּטָּה לְמֵעְלָה וּבְפּוּרִים גַּם כֵּן כְּתוּב "פּוּר הוּא הַגּוֹרָל" מְמַטְּה לְמַעְלָה וְכֵן בְּיוֹם הַכִּפּוּרִים עַל שְׁנֵי הַשְּׁעִירִים גּוֹרָלוֹת כוֹ'. אֲבָל אֵיךְ אֶפְשָׁר לַעְלוֹת לְמַעְלָה הֲלֹא יֵשׁ עֲוֹנוֹת הַמַּבְדִּילִין וּמְעַכְּבִין? לָזֶה אָמֵר "לַה' חַטָּאת" שֶׁאֲפִילוּ הַחַטָּאת כְּשָׁעוֹלָה לַה' הוּא, כִּי לְמַעְלָה גָּם חֹשֶׁךְ לֹא יַחְשִׁיךְ, שָׁם אֵין חֹשֶּךְ, שֶׁהַכֹּל אֶחָד שָׁם. אֲבָל זֶה אֱמֶת שֶׁלְּמַעְלָה ?אִין חֹשֶּךְ, אֵבַל אִיךְ אָפָשׁר לַעַלוֹת לְמַעְלָה

However, it is known that on Yom Kippur, the second Tablets were given. Therefore, Yom Kippur was chosen, and at the time of the giving of the Torah, it was stated, "Face to face, Hashem spoke with you." Yet, seemingly, does He not have a corporeal form? However, it is known that what is aligned with His will is called "face," and what is against His will is called "back." And at the time of the giving of the Torah, all of Israel's will was directed toward Him, may He be blessed, and all matters of the body were in the aspect of "back."

אֲבָל הָנֵּה יָדוּעַ שֶׁבְּיוֹם הַכָּפּוּרִים הָיָה מַתַּן תּוֹרָה לוּחוֹת אַחֲרוֹנוֹת. וְלָכֵן הוּא נִבְחַר לְיוֹם הַכִּפּוּרִים וּבְשַׁעַת מַתַּן תּוֹרָה נָאֱמֵר "פָּנִים בְּפָנִים דִּבֶּר ה' עִמֶּכֶם". וּלְכָאוֹרָה הֲלֹא אֵין לוֹ דְּמוּת הַגּוּף? אֲבָל הִנֵּה יָדוּעַ שֶׁהַדָּבָר שֶׁבִּרְצוֹנוֹ נִקְרָא "פָּנִים" וּמַה שֶׁהוּא נָגֶד רְצוֹנוֹ נִקְרָא "אָחוֹר" וּבְשַׁעַת מַתַּן תּוֹרָה הָיָה כָּל רְצוֹן יִשְׂרָאֵל אֵלָיו יִתְבָּרַךְ וְכָל עִנְיְנֵי הַגֹּוּף הָיוּ בִּבְחִינַת "אָחוֹר.

As our Sages said, "With every utterance [of Hashem], their souls departed," and in truth, they had bodies. However, since all matters of the body were in the aspect of "back," it was as if they had no bodies, and thus they were in the aspect of "face," as in "As water reflects a face," etc. And as it is written, "And upon the likeness of the throne was a likeness as the appearance of a man." But how can it be said that, regarding Him, may He be blessed, there is an appearance of a man?

ְּכְמַאֲמַר ז"ל עַל כָּל דִּבּוּר פָּרְחָה נִשְׁמָתָם וּבֶּאֱמֶת הָיָה לָהֶם גּוּפִים. אֲבָל לְפִי שָׁכָּל עִנְיִינֵי הַגּוּף הִיוּ בִּבְחִינַת "אָחוֹר" וְנִמְצָא כְּמוֹ שֶׁאֵין לָהֶם גּוּפִים, וּמְמֵילָא הָיוּ בִּבְחִינַת "פָּנִים", כְּמֵיִם הַכָּנִים וְגוֹ'. וּכְמוֹ שֶׁכָּתוּב "וְעַל דְּמוּת הַכְּפֵּא דְּמוּת כְּמַרְאֵה "אַדָם". וְאֵיךְ שַׁיַּיְרְ אֶצְלוֹ יִתְבָּרַךְ "כְּמַרְאֵה אַדָם?"

Alter Rebbe Torah Ohr - Purim

And Mordechai went out from before the king - וּמָרְדֶּכֵי יָצָא מִלִּפְנֵי הַמֶּלֶךְ כו

	3 - 10:00
However, as an analogy, when a person loves his friend, his image is engraved in his heart as if his form is upon him. And now as well, every physical matter must be in the aspect of "back," as our Sages said regarding marriage: "As if he were forced by a demon." And all the more so regarding other matters.	אָבָל הִנֵּה לְמָשָׁל, כְּשֶׁאָדָם אוֹהֵב אֶת חֲבֵירוֹ, חָקוּקָה צוּרָתוֹ בְּלְבּוֹ כְּאָלוּ צוּרָתוֹ עָלָיו. וְעַכְשָׁו גַּם כֵּן צָרִיךְ לִהְיוֹת כָּל דָּבָר גּוּפָנִי בִּבְחִינַת "אָחוֹר", כְּמַאֲמַר ז"ל גַּבֵּי זִוּוּג "כָּאָלוּ כְּפָאוֹ שֵׁד". וְקַל וָחוֹמֶר אֵצֶל שְׁאָר דְּבָרִים.
And not as people of the world mistakenly think, that this is a repulsive matter because immersion is required afterward. Not so! Rather, it is something great, and above as well, it is something great. And all the more so regarding eating and similar matters, that one must conduct himself as if he is forced, and not say that he simply cannot eat, etc.	וְלֹא כְּמוֹ שֶׁמְדַמִּין הָעוֹלָם שֶׁזֶּהוּ דָּבָר מָאוּס מִפְּנֵי שָׁצָרִיךְ טְבִילָה אַחֲרֵי זֶה. לֹא כֵן, כִּי הוּא דָּבָר גָּדוֹל, וְגַם לְמַעְלָה הוּא דָּבָר גָּדוֹל. וְקַל וָחוֹמֶר אֵצֶל אֲכִילָה וּשְׁאָר דְּבָרִים, שֶׁצָרִיךְ לִהְיוֹת כְּאִלוּ לְּפָּאוֹ שֵׁד וְלֹא לוֹמַר שֶׁזֶּה אֵינוֹ יָכוֹל לֶאֱכוֹל וְגוֹ.
And as a result, there will be "face to face." And on Purim as well, through the fact that they hanged him and his sons above fifty [cubits], as is known.	וּמְמֵּילָא יִהְיֶה "פָּנִים בְּפָנִים". וּבְפוּרִים גַּם כֵּן, עַל יְדֵי שֶׁתָּלוּ אוֹתוֹ וְאֶת בָּנָיו לְמַעְלָה מֵחְמִשִּׁים, כַּנּוֹדָע.
However, it is known that every individual, both in general and in particular, always desires to cleave to the Creator, blessed be He, and strives with all possible effort, yet does not attain anything. And there are fools who fall because of this. But this is a great folly, for one must know that we cry out in exile, "For Abraham did not know us, and Israel does not recognize us," but it does not say Isaac.	אֲבָל הִנֵּה יָדוּעַ שֶׁכָּל אֶחָד וְאֶחָד, בִּכְלָל וּבִפְּרָט, רוֹצֶה תָּמִיד לְהִדָּבֵק בַּבּוֹרֵא יִתְבָּרַךְ, וּמִתְאַמֵּץ בְּכָל מַה שֶּׁאֶפְשָׁר, וְאֵינוֹ מַשִּׂיג שׁוּם דָּבָר. וְיֵשׁ שׁוֹטִים שָׁנוֹפְלִים מִזֶּה. אֲבָל זֶהוּ שְׁטוּת גָּדוֹל, כִּי זֶה צָרִיךְ לָדַעַת שֶׁאָנוּ צוֹעֲקִים בַּגָּלוּת: "כִּי אַבְרָהָם לֹא יְדָעָנוּ וְיִשְׂרָאֵל לֹא יַכִּירָנוּ," וּיצְחָק לֹא קָאָמַר.
And it is stated in the Gemara that in the future, Isaac will redeem us, as it is known. For previously, everything was revealed, and whatever they asked for was given to them, both materially and spiritually. And they also had prophets. And all this was because the attributes of Abraham and Israel were revealed in the aspect of "filling all worlds." Because of this, they were able to see miracles in an open manner, such as the splitting of the sea and the exodus from Egypt.	ְאִיתָא בַּגְּמָרָא שָׁיִצְחָק עָתִיד לִגְאוֹל אוֹתָנוּ, כַּיָדוּעַ. שֶׁמִּקֹדֶם הָיָה כָּל דָּבָר בְּהִתְגַּלּוּת, וּמַה שָׁהָיוּ שׁוֹאֲלִים הָיוּ נוֹתְנִים לָהֶם, בֵּין בַּגַּשְׁמִיּוּת וּבֵין בָּרוּחָנִיּוּת. וְגַם הָיוּ לָהֶם נְבִיאִים. וְכָל זֶה הוּא מִפְּנֵי שֶׁהָיְתָה בְּהִתְגַּלוּת מִדַּת אַבְרָהָם וְיִשְׂרָאֵל בָּבְחִינַת "מְמַלֵּא כָּל עָלְמִין". וּמִפְּנֵי זֶה הָיוּ יְכוֹלִים לְרְאוֹת נִסִּים בְּהִתְגַּלוּת, כְּמוֹ קְרִיעַת יַם-סוּף וְיְצִיאַת מִצְרַיִם
But in this exile, "our signs we have not seen," meaning that we are unable to see the signs. Not because there are no signs, Heaven forbid, but because we are unable to perceive them. On the contrary, "these are His wonders, these are His might," etc., and "there is no longer a prophet, nor is there anyone among us who knows how long." This is	אֲבָל בַּגָּלוּת הַזֶּה "אוֹתֹתֵינוּ לֹא רָאִינוּ," שֶׁאֵין אָנוּ יְכוֹלִים לְרְאוֹת אֶת הָאוֹתֹת. וְלֹא מִפְּנֵי שֶׁאֵין אוֹתֹת ח"ו, אֶלָּא מִפְּנֵי שֶׁאֵין אָנוּ יְכוֹלִים לְרְאוֹת אוֹתָם. וְאַדְּרַבָּא, "הֵן הֵן נוֹרָאוֹתָיו, הֵן הֵן גְּבוּרוֹתָיו" וְגוֹ', "וְאֵין עוֹד נָבִיא, וְלֹא אִתָּנוּ יוֹדֵעַ עַד מָה." וְזֶהוּ

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because "Abraham did not know us," for You, Hashem, are	"מְפְּנֵי שֶׁ"אֲבָרָהָם לֹא יִדָעָנוּ," כִּי "אַתָּה ה' גּוֹאֲלֵנוּ,"
our Redeemer—past, present, and future.	ָהָיָה, הֹוֶה, וְיִהְיֶה.
And this is beyond Abraham, for even Abraham and Israel	ןזֶהוּ לְמַעְלָה מֵאַבְרָהָם, שֶׁאַפִּילוּ אַבְרָהָם וְיִשְׂרָאֵל
above are creations, as it is written, "For in six days,	שְׁלְמַעְלָה, הֵם בִּבְחִינַת נִבְרָאִים, כְּמוֹ שֶׁכֶּתוּב "כִּי
Hashem made [the heavens and the earth]," meaning that	שֵׁשֶׁת יָמִים עָשָׂה ה'," שֶׁאַפִּילוּ שֵׁשֶׁת הַיָּמִים
even the supernal six days are an aspect of "action" before	ָהָעֶלְיוֹנִים הֵם בִּבְחִינַת "עֲשִׂיָּה" אֶצְלוֹ יִתְבָּרַךְ.
Him, may He be blessed. But when "You, Hashem, are our	אָבָל כְּשֶׁ"אַתָּה ה' גּוֹאֲלֵנוּ," אִי אֶפְשָׁר לִרְאוֹת
Redeemer," it is impossible to see miracles openly.	ָנִסִּים בְּהָתְגַּלוּת. אֲבָל בָּאֱמֶת, אַפִּילוּ הַיּוֹם,
However, in truth, even today, when sustenance is scarce, it	שֶׁהַפַּרְנָסוֹת דְּחוּקוֹת, הוּא מַמָּשׁ כָּמוֹ קְרִיעַת
is truly like the splitting of the sea.	יַם-10-טַ.
However, [the miracle] is clothed within the natural order. Therefore, Yochanan the High Priest annulled those who would call out, "Awaken, why do You sleep, Hashem?" He nullified it, for there is no need to awaken Him, as "Behold, He neither slumbers nor sleeps," but rather, we do not see, as mentioned above.	אֲבָל שֶׁמִתְלַבֵּשׁ דֶּרֶךְ הַטֶּבַע. וְלָכֵן בִּטֵל יוֹחָנָן כֹּהֵן גָּדוֹל אֶת הַמְּעוֹרְרִים שֶׁהָיוּ אוֹמְרִים "עוּרָה לָמָה תִישַׁן ה'", וְהוּא בִּטֵל שֶׁאֵין צֹרֶךְ לְעוֹרְרוֹ, כִּי "הִנֵּה לֹא יָנוּם וְלֹא יִישָׁן," רַק שֶׁאֵין אָנוּ רוֹאִים, כְּנִזְכָּר לְעֵיל.
For in truth, "I, Hashem, have not changed." However, regarding this exile, it is stated, "She has fallen, she shall not rise," which refers to both the aspect of "surrounding all worlds" and "filling all worlds," meaning that it is impossible to ascend above, but one can still be close. Because of this, the miracle is clothed within nature, and similarly, in Purim, the entire story of the Megillah follows the natural order.	כִּי בֶּאֶמֶת "אֲנִי ה' לֹא שָׁנִיתִי." אֲבָל מִפְנֵי שֶׁנֶּאֱמֵר עַל גָּלוּת זֶה "נָפְלָה לֹא תוֹסִיף קוּם," שֶׁהוּא בְּחִינַת "סוֹבֵב כָּל עָלְמִין" וּ"מְמַלֵּא כָּל עָלְמִין," שָׁאִי אֶפְשָׁר לַעֲלוֹת לְמַעְלָה, אֲבָל אֶפְשָׁר לִהְיוֹת קָרוֹב. וּמִפְנֵי זֶה הַנֵּס מִתְלַבֵּשׁ דֶּרֶךְ הַשֶּׁבַע, וְכֵן בִּפוּרִים, כָּל מַעֲשֵׂה הַמְּגִלָּה בְּדֶרֶךְ הַשֶּׁבַע
And similarly, when we cry out and are not answered, it is not that we are not answered, but rather that we do not see [the answer]. On the contrary, our Sages said, "They were exiled to Babylonia, and the Divine Presence went with them," and it is also stated, "And I am within the exile," for Knesset Yisrael is called "I," as it is written, "And I am prayer."	וְכֵן מַה שֶּׁאָנוּ צוֹעֲקִים וְאֵין נַעֲנִים, לֹא שֶׁאֵין אָנוּ נַעֲנִים, אֶלָּא שֶׁאֵין אָנוּ רוֹאִים. וְאַדְּרַבָּא, אָמְרוּ רַזָ"ל: "גָּלוּ לְבָבֶל, שְׁכִינָה עִמֶּהֶם," וְגַם נֶאֱמַר "וַאֲנִי בְּתוֹךְ הַגּוֹלָה," שֶׁכְּנֶסֶת יִשְׂרָאֵל נִקְרֵאת "."אֲנִי," וּלְתִיב "וַאֲנִי תְפִלָּה
In earlier generations, when they prayed, they were answered. But now, "I am prayer," meaning that I myself am prayer, from the expression "struggles" (נפתולי). And therefore, it is written, "And when her father and mother died," which refers to the aspect of Abraham, as is known. Mordechai took her in, for he is abundant in kindness.	וּבְדוֹרוֹת הָרָאשׁוֹנִים, כְּשֶׁהָיוּ מִתְפַּלְלִים, הָיוּ נַעֲנִים. אֲבָל עַכְשָׁו, "וַאֲנִי תְפִלָּה," שֶׁאֲנִי בְּעַצְמִי תְּפָלָּה, מִלְשׁוֹן "נַפְתּוּלֵי." וְלָכֵן כְּתִיב "וּבְמוֹת אָבִיהָ וְאִמָּה," שֶׁזֶּהוּ בְּחִינַת אַבְרָהָם, כַּיָּדוּעַ. לִקְחָהּ מָרְדְּכִי, שֶׁהוּא רַב חֶסֶד.

Alter Rebbe Torah Ohr - Purim

And Mordechai went out from before the king - וּמָרְדֶּכֵי יָצָא מִלָּפְנֵי הַמֶּלֶךְ כו

But as it is written, "And the young woman was of beautiful form and good appearance," meaning that when she fulfills His will, He takes her as a daughter—do not read "as a daughter" (לבית) but "as a house" (לבית), which was revealed through him, as is known. And revelation comes through "And Mordechai went out from before the king," in garments—meaning through the six orders of the Mishnah.	אֲבָל כְּמוֹ שֶׁכָּתוּב: "וְהַנַּעֲרָה יְפַת תּצֵּר וְטוֹבַת מַרְאֶה," דְּהַיְנוּ כְּשֶׁעוֹשָּׁה רְצוֹנוֹ, לְקָחָהּ לוֹ לְבַת—אַל תִּקְרֵי לְבַת, אֶלָּא לְבַיִת, שֶׁנּגְלָה עַל יָדִי כַּיָּדוּעַ. וְהַהִתְגַּלוּת בָּאָה מִמֵּה שֶׁ"וּמָרְדְּכִי יָצָא מִלְּפְנֵי הַמֶּלֶךְ בִּלְבוּשׁ," דְּהַיְנוּ עַל יְדֵי שִׁשָּׁה סִדְרֵי מִשְׁנָה
"Royalty" refers to Seder Zeraim, as it is written, "For as the earth brings forth its growth," and "Truth will sprout from the earth." "Techeiles" refers to Seder Moed, as it relates to time. "White" refers to Seder Nashim. "A great golden crown" refers to Seder Nezikin. "A robe of fine linen" (μιμ) relates to Kodashim, as "bad" (μιμ) is singular. "Purple" refers to Seder Taharos, as it contains many variations.	מַלְכוּת" זֶה סֵדֶר זְרָעִים, כְּמוֹ שֶׁכֶּתוּב "כִּי כָאָרֶץ" תּוֹצִיא צִמְחָה" וּכְתִיב "אֲמֶת מֵאֶרֶץ תִּצְמָח." "תְּכֵלֶת" זֶה סֵדֶר מוֹעֵד, לָשׁוֹן זְמַן. "חוּר" זֶה סֵדֶר נָשִׁים. "וַעֲטֶרֶת זָהָב גִּדוֹלָה" זֶה סֵדֶר נְזִיקִין. "וְתַכְרִיךְ בּוּץ" לָשׁוֹן "בַּד," זֶה סֵדֶר קָדָשִׁים. "וְאַרְגָּמָן" זֶה סֵדֶר טָהֶרוֹת, שֶׁיֵשׁ בּוֹ כַּמָּה גְּוָנִים
And afterward, it will come into revelation: "And the city of Shushan rejoiced and was glad," and "For the Jews there was light," etc.	וְאַחַר כָּךְ יָבוֹא בְּהָתְגַלּוּת: "וְהָעִיר שׁוּשָׁן צָהֲלָה וְשָׂמֵחָה," "לַיְּהוּדִים הָיְתָה אוֹרָה" וְגוֹ'.