



Oasis

A Publication of Tents of Mercy Congregation (Ohalei Rachamim) - Volume 11, Issue 3



On Their Shoulders

By Eitan Shishkoff

Zionist youth movements played a significant role in establishing the State of Israel. Most of these groups were formed in Europe from 1901 to the outbreak of World War II in 1939.

*"Their influence greatly exceeded their numerical importance in community organization, education, political awareness and Zionist consciousness. Practically speaking, they were also the builders of the kibbutz movement. Their special inner strength became apparent, tragically, during the Holocaust. They remained active throughout this catastrophe, and their leaders orchestrated Jewish organization and resistance in ghettos and camps... Most of the surviving members eventually settled in Palestine."*¹

These youth movements, helped provide the backbone of reborn Israel. The focus, sacrifice and visionary dedication of these youth movements contributed an inspiring example. Young Jews, faced with immense odds against even returning to Zion, much less rebuilding an ancient nation, succeeded in helping capture the heart of the Diaspora community for the Zionist enterprise. Youth movements such as Poalei Tzion (*Workers of Zion*), HaShomer HaTza'ir (*The Young Guardsmen*), HaBonim (*The Builders*), HeChalutz (*The Pioneer*) and many others built bridges that connected support groups in the Diaspora with those clearing swamps, farming and building new cities in Eretz Yisrael.

*"Youth movements in Palestine began to organize in the 1920s, chiefly under the influence of movement alumni who had come from the Diaspora. They stressed togetherness, pioneering and personal fulfillment, especially on the kibbutz. Here, as in Europe, their public impact and influence on young people was immense."*²

Today's Messianic Youth and Friends from the Nations

In similar fashion, the Messianic Israeli youth of today are poised to change the nation. Many of them also began in the Diaspora. They bring a zeal and idealism to the dream of a resurrected indigenous community of Yeshua's Israeli disciples. Like the Zionist youth early in the 20th century, they are charged by history with the task of pioneering a movement at the outset of the 21st century. They too are teaming up with their counterparts in the nations, spontaneously forming an international network of youth with a vision for Israel's revival. Again, the aid of sympathetic Zionists, both Jewish and Gentile, from the nations is essential.

I experienced this first hand within a short stretch of just several days. In rapid succession we were visited by delegations from Korea, Austria and the USA. In each case there was a distinct appreciation for the stirring taking place among Israel's Messianic youth and young adults. Young people and their parents were moved to discover the developing expressions of worship, prayer, outreach and discipleship emerging in the land. Especially when our hearts were joined in prayer, we got a taste of Holy Spirit power released when God draws together believers from the nations and local Messianic youth. Koreans from the Onnuri alliance of churches interceded passionately for the latter rain to fall upon our land, bringing the final harvest before Yeshua's return. Their pastors have conscientiously prioritized for Israel for more than 20 years.

Standing hand in hand with Austrian believers, whose nation experienced virulent anti-Semitism not so long ago, we knew the power of Heaven to transform hate into love and pride into humility. These friends were truly tender and aware of Messianic Jewish distinctives. They had done their homework. In an intimate time with leaders from IHOP in Kansas City, an atmosphere of prophetic clarity surrounded us. We were wonderfully encouraged by the Lord's assurance of ultimate victory over darkness and unbelief.

Please join us in concentrated, prevailing intercession on behalf of the Messianic youth movements of today and their counterparts in the nations. May their pioneer efforts achieve in the spiritual realm what the early Zionists achieved in the physical realm. **"Behold, I will lift my hand in an oath to the nations... They shall bring your sons in their arms, and your daughters shall be carried on their shoulders. (Isaiah 49:22)"** ✨

¹ www.jewishvirtuallibrary.org/jsource/Society.../Youth.html

² *ibid*

LORD OF THE HAMANTASHEN

PURIM 5711

By Moshe Morrison



Editor's note: It is a long-standing custom to celebrate Purim with jocularly and just plain silliness. Laughter is sometimes the most appropriate response to the tenuous frailty of this world. Not only is Moshe Morrison our resident Khakham (wise man), he is also our chief jokester. Please be advised: when reading this re-telling of the tale, insert tongue firmly in cheek.

In the beginning of the first age God created the heavens and the earth. On the sixth day He created man and woman and placed them in a very special garden. Their names were Adam and Eve and everything growing in the garden was available to bless them.

However there was one special tree in the garden from which God had forbidden them to eat. It was the tree of the golden "Hamantashen." Its fruit was triangular and about the size of a woman's hand. Its outside texture was much like cookie dough and each one was filled with a gooey substance that looked like poppy-seed paste. Each piece of fruit had a subtle golden sheen. Anyone who ate one of the fruits would have great power over others, but would be corrupted by it and led down evil paths. Sadly, Adam and Eve were deceived by the lies of an ancient serpent which was also living in the garden.

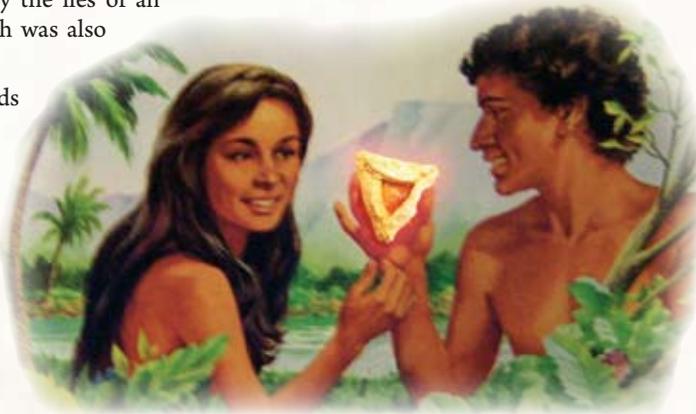
The smooth words of the serpent clouded the minds and hearts of Adam and Eve. They disobeyed God who had given them so much and they ate the golden Hamantashen. As a consequence they lost their place in the garden and were driven out by God. However,

they secretly took one piece of the forbidden fruit with them (easier to do since they were now wearing clothes). From the time it left the garden, the golden Hamantashen hardened so it was impossible to eat it or damage it in any way. Its power increased greatly until it was no

longer necessary to eat it but only to wear it on the body. It was given to their son Cain who killed his brother and then became a wanderer. In his journeys the golden Hamantashen was lost and passed through many hands, corrupting everyone who had it. At the time of the great flood it was hidden in the bottom of Noah's ark by a chimpanzee.

Years after the flood, the golden Hamantashen came into the hands of a hunter who killed the chimpanzee. This hunter's name was Nimrod and he founded Babylon and became its wicked king. Like so many others, Nimrod was betrayed by its power and his kingdom fell and the evil fruit found its way to Egypt where it was held by the Pharaohs.

The people of Israel were slaves to the Egyptians but the God of Israel came and set His people free. When Pharaoh and his armies chased them into the Red Sea, he and the Egyptians were drowned and the golden Hamantashen that Pharaoh had been wearing around his neck washed up on the shore of the Sinai desert where it was found



by the king of the Amalakites.

Later it came into the hands of Goliath, but after he was killed by David it went to King Saul who was corrupted by it. After Saul's death it disappeared for many years until it was found quite by accident by an

innocent Jewish Hobbit named Baruch Bagginstein just before the destruction of the first Temple. Not knowing what to do with it, Baruch hid it in a sack with a bunch of odds and ends that he intended to sort through some day.

The home town of Jewish Hobbits, Jeru-shire-lem was invaded by the Babylonians, Baruch and his wife were killed, but their little girl Esther Bagginstein was spared and went into exile, watched over by her cousin Mordechai Gandalfsky. Little did she know as they settled into their new home in Babylon that among the few items left to her by her parents was the golden Hamantashen of power. Neither did she have any knowledge of what it could do. But Mordechai Gandalfsky knew exactly what they had on their hands.

Mordechai told the story of the golden Hamantashen to his young cousin and explained to her that the person who possessed it could rule the world, but consequently would become more and more evil.

Esther was frightened and asked if it was the real thing in hopes that it was not. Mordechai said there was a way to prove it, and he told Esther to throw it in to the fire burning in the fireplace. If it was genuine it would not be harmed. Esther did as she as told. She exclaimed, "It's glowing, but not burning!" Mordechai said, "Take it out. You'll find it is cool to the touch. Look on the back and tell me if you see anything." At first Esther saw nothing. "Wait a moment," she said, "there is some writing appearing." It said,

"Golden Hamantashen to rule them all, Golden Hamantashen to find them.

Golden Hamantashen brings them all, into the darkness and binds them."

Esther wanted to throw it away immediately, but Mordechai pointed out that it would only find its way into other hands and continue to create more evil in the world. It must be destroyed and there was only one way to do it. It must be thrown into

the fire of evil from Mt Doom by the hand of an evil man himself. Though it seemed to Esther and Mordechai that there was no way for that to transpire, they agreed to keep it hidden and trust God for the solution.

Not long after this, Vashti, the wife of the king of Babylon was thrown out of the palace because she was rebellious. The king decided that he needed to find a new wife. All the beautiful maidens of the kingdom were called to the palace where they would compete to see who would be the new queen. Esther also was among the young ladies. Her cousin Mordecai had warned her to keep her Jewish Hobbit identity secret. Wearing high heel shoes helped doubly. They raised her above the average Hobbit height and covered her very hairy Hobbit feet. Her long curly hair covered her pointed ears.

The day of the great beauty contest came and all the lovely ladies stood before the king. Esther was loveliest of them all and was crowned the new queen.

Soon after Esther became queen and moved into the palace, her cousin Mordechai discovered a plot by some Orcs who planned to sneak into the palace to kill the king. He sent a message to Esther about it. She told the king, and the Orcs were captured and executed. And it was written in the King's record books that a man named Mordecai Gandalfsky had saved his life.

After this, the king promoted a new second in command to help him run the kingdom. His name was Haman Sauron. He was mean, nasty and evil, and wanted to rule the world. By magic he knew that the golden Hamantashen of power had found its way back into the kingdom of Babylon. (It had not been in Babylon since the days of Nimrod.) If he could get his hands on it, then nothing could stop him! He also suspected that the golden Hamantashen was in the hands of the Jewish Hobbits and that they were an obstacle to his dreams of ruling the world. The combination of Haman Sauron and the golden Hamantashen would surely be the end of all the goodness in the world.

One day walking down the street, he came face to face with Mordechai Gandalfsky. Unlike most others, Mordechai was unafraid and refused to bow to him. Haman was furious and raised his staff to strike Gandalfsky. But Mordechai was faster and stronger, countering Sauron's attempted blow with his own staff, driving the shocked Haman up against a wall. He shouted, "You'll pay for this Gandalfsky, you and all your Jewish Hobbits. I know your secret and it won't be yours for long."

Humiliated, Haman went to the king and told him lies about the Jewish Hobbits. He made the king think that they were a threat to his kingdom. He had the king sign an edict allowing for the murder of the Jews and the plundering of their possessions. He told the



king that his servants would personally supervise the deposit of the treasures into the royal treasuries. What he did not tell the king was if the golden Hamantashen was found, it would be brought immediately to Haman.

As soon as the edict was published, Mordecai went to Esther and asked her to plead for mercy before the king. Esther was fearful because it was against the law to just walk into the king's presence without being called. She could lose her life.

"Yes it is dangerous," Mordecai agreed, "but these are perilous times."

Esther lamented, "I wish it need not have happened in my time."

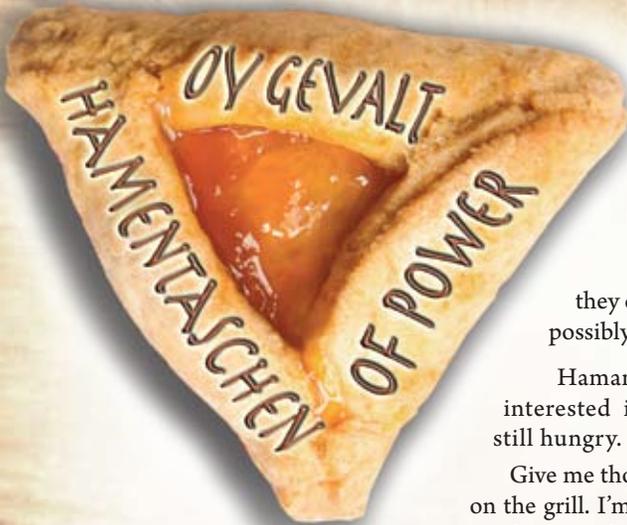
Mordecai responded, "So do I and so do all who live to see such times. But that is not for them to decide. All we have to decide is what to do with the time that is given us. If you don't go, relief and deliverance will come to the Jews another way, but you and your father's house shall perish." Esther Bagginsein drew herself up to her full 3'4" height and declared, "Go and call all the Jewish Hobbits to a three day fast. Then after that, I will go to the king. And if I perish, I perish!"

After three days Esther went to the king who was very happy to see her. She told him she was preparing a special lunch the next day and that he and Haman Sauron were invited. The king was delighted and so was Haman.

However, that night the king could not sleep. To occupy his mind, he was reading through the palace records. There he discovered that a certain Mordecai Gandalfsky had saved his life and had never been rewarded. The king then called for Haman Sauron to come so he could get his counsel as to what to do. Hearing that the king desired to honor someone, the egotistical Haman thought it was him. He therefore described a scenario wherein the honoree would be led through the streets in the king's garments, in the king's chariot, with a nobleman walking ahead proclaiming the king's favor on him.

The king thought it was a wonderful idea and ordered Haman to do it for Mordechai Gandalfski. Sauron was horrified, but did as he was commanded. The whole time he was thinking of fiendish ways he could kill Mordechai. He returned home just in time to leave for the Esther's luncheon. It made him feel a little bit better to think that the queen had specifically invited him.

After they had snacked awhile on tasty hors d'oeuvres, the king asked about the main course. Esther replied, "Well your majesty, there is a problem. I prepared all these burgers, but when I went to find the grill, I discovered someone had borrowed it and had failed to bring it back."



Haman, seeking to ingratiate himself with the queen, eagerly offered his. "I have one you can use and I always keep a fire burning in it." (He chuckled to himself thinking about how he had originally kindled this fire with coals from the fires of evil on Mt Doom.).

Esther thanked him as he eagerly ran out to get it. In his brief absence, the king spoke. "Esther, this is a wonderful party. I am so pleased, what can I do for you. Ask me anything, even up to half my kingdom."

Esther cried out, "I plead for my life, and the life of my people. For we have been sold to be destroyed and annihilated!"

The shocked king also cried out. "Who are your people and who would do such a thing?" "Well, since you haven't noticed that I am short and have pointed ears...I am Jewish and the Hobbits are my people. And the one who has done this is the wicked Haman Sauron!" she shouted, turning and pointing her finger at the returning Haman.

Haman Sauron (putting down the grill and drawing his sword) declared his intentions. "Yes, it's true. I intend to take over the world, and I'm starting here with the kingdom of Babylon. I'm going to kill both of you. All my servants that I have placed in strategic places will back me up when I take

the throne. Then after I have killed all the Jewish Hobbits and found the golden Hamantashen nothing can stop me."

"Can we talk about this a bit more?" asked the king.

Esther suggested perhaps they could have some burgers and possibly negotiate.

Haman responded, "I'm not interested in negotiations, but I am still hungry.

Give me those burgers and I'll put them on the grill. I'm not such a bad guy. I'll let you have one last meal before I kill you.'

Esther handed him the burgers, one of which was twice the size of all the others.

"Hey this one is really big, just right for me." boasted Haman as he put them on the grill.

As the flames enveloped the burgers and smoke rose from the grill, the wicked Haman Sauron began to turn pale. His skin began to dry out and shrivel. He staggered. "What's happening?" he cried, "I'm feeling weaker. I'm losing all my strength. I'm dying. How can it be?" Esther Bagginstein clapped her hands. "It's the golden Hamantashen you fool. I wrapped it in ground beef so you would not recognize it

and now you yourself have put it on the fire of evil and it is being destroyed and you with it!"

As Haman Sauron fell to the ground dead, Mordechai Gandalfsky walked in.

"Mazal Tov, Cousin Esther. Not only have you rescued your people, but you have rid the world of a great evil." he said.

Esther turned to the king. "This is my cousin Mordechai Gandalfsky. Without his help I never could have done it."

The king was very pleased. "Gandalfsky, you've done it again. I'm going to make you second in command in my kingdom."

Mordechai replied, "Thank you your majesty. I'm honored. For my first official act in my new position I would like to establish a holiday to commemorate this victory. We will call it Purim which in the ancient Hobbit language is translated "Esther's Burgers."

Both Esther and the king asked, "How will we celebrate it?"

Mordechai Gandalfsky answered, "We will do silly plays and eat Hamantashen, only not made of gold."

There was also some talk about grilling burgers, but that was transferred to Israel Independence Day. ✨

The End

