

ספר אסתר פרק ד

(יג) וַיֹּאמֶר מֶרְדֵּכַי לְהַשִּׁיב אֶל אֶסְתֵּר אֵל אֶסְתֵּר אֵל תְּדַמִּי בְּנַפְשֶׁךָ לְהַמְלִיט בֵּית הַמֶּלֶךְ מִכָּל הַיְהוּדִים
(יד) כִּי אִם הִסְרֵשׁ תִּחְרִישִׁי בְּעַת הַזֹּאת כָּנַח וְהִצָּלָה יַעֲמוּד לַיהוּדִים מִמָּקוֹם אַחֵר וְאַתָּה וּבֵית אָבִיךָ תִּאֲבָדוּ וְיָדַע אִם לָעַתְּ כֹּז אֵת
הַגְּעֵת לְמַלְכוּת

And Mordechai said to be told to Esther, “Do not imagine in your mind to be saved in the palace from all of the Jews.

Because if you are silent at this time, salvation and rescue will come to the Jews from another source and you and your father’s house will be lost, and who is to know if not for this moment were you brought to the palace.”

רש"י אסתר פרק ד פסוק יג

(יג) אל תדמי בנפשך - אל תהי סבורה להמלט ביום ההריגה בבית המלך שאין את רוצה לסכן עצמך עכשיו על הספק לבא אל המלך שלא ברשות

Rashi – Don’t imagine in your mind- don’t think that you will be saved on the day of the killing, and therefore you don’t want to endanger yourself.

Background:

One of the most barbaric tyrants who ruled over man was Achashverosh. Not only wasn’t he above murder and wholesale slaughter, if one walked into his throne room uninvited, the inevitable result was to be slain on the spot. In fact, when Esther did walk in, despite the fact that she was the queen, the guards immediately moved forward to kill her, only being stopped because the king lowered his scepter.

Based on this understanding when Mordechai asked Esther to seek mercy from Achashverosh, Esther said, “I will wait for the king to call me”. To which Mordechai responded: “Do not feel secure in the fact that you are the Queen....”

Question:

The Rosh HaYeshiva asked: Esther seems to be logical in her position and Mordechai almost seems to be reactionary, and certainly not addressing her concerns.

Despite the danger that it implies, Esther agreed to go to the king. However, she pointed out wisely, that “I haven’t been called for 30 days, likely he will call me shortly, I will have a greater chance of success, if he calls me, first off because then I am doing his bidding, and secondly, I avoid the possibility of being killed for the Chutzpah of walking in uninvited.”

Clearly, Mordechai felt that she shouldn’t wait but should rather go in immediately. However, not only doesn’t Mordechai address the logic of her point, he reacts with unwarranted criticism: “Don’t think that you will escape because you are queen.”

Esther wasn’t claiming that she wasn’t herself in danger, she was making a logical point, that strategically it was wiser to wait. If so, why did Mordechai react as he did?