



# The Best L'Chaim Jewish Holiday

## 1. Biblical Origin

Purim commemorates the events of the Book of Esther, where Queen Esther and her cousin Mordecai save the Jewish people from a plot by Haman to annihilate them.

# 10 Facts About Purim

Queen Esther's Holiday

## 2. Date of Celebration

Purim is celebrated on the 14th day of the Hebrew month of Adar (in leap years, it is celebrated on the 15th).

## 3. Megillah Reading

One of the key practices of Purim is the public reading of the **Megillah Esther** (the Scroll of Esther), which recounts the story of Purim. It is typically read twice: once on the evening of Purim and again the following morning.

## 4. Mishloach Manot

It is traditional to send gifts of food to friends, known as mishloach manot, to foster friendship and community.



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### 5. Charity (Matanot La'evyonim)

Giving to those in need is an important aspect of Purim, with the practice of donating money or food to the poor (matanot la'evyonim).

### 6. Festive Meal (Seuda)

A celebratory festive meal is held, often including wine and rich foods, as part of the day's celebrations.

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### 8. Hamantaschen

A traditional pastry eaten during Purim is **hamantaschen**, which are triangular cookies typically filled with fruit preserves or sweet fillings, symbolizing Haman's three-cornered hat.

### 9. Drink and Revelry

Purim is known for its festive atmosphere, including drinking and merriment. It is often said that one should drink "until one cannot distinguish between blessed be Mordecai and cursed be Haman."

### 10. Purimspiel

Many communities put on humorous plays or skits called **Purimspiels**, which reenact the Purim story or contain comedic elements related to the holiday, making the celebration lively and entertaining.