



PURIM IN REFLECTION: THE MASKS WE WEAR

BROUGHT TO YOU BY:



GOING DEEPER WITH PURIM

During the month of Adar, we celebrate joy, happiness, and a sense of freedom within ourselves. Among the many celebratory customs practiced during Purim, dressing up and wearing masks is one of the most popular and fun. When we take the analogy of 'masks' a step further, we get curious about all the different kinds of costumes or masks that we may embody-consciously or unconsciously.

Some of these parts of us are only revealed through specific experiences, dynamics, or relationships. In this deck of reflective questions, we invite you to explore all the roles that you play, the various aspects of your identity, or the person you're expected to become in specific scenarios. Call a friend or grab a loved one and explore these questions together or engage in meaningful dialogue with yourself!

MASKS IN THE MEGILLAH

In the story of Purim, the newly selected queen of Shushan, Esther, holds a big secret and masks her true identity as a Jewish woman with the Hebrew name, Hadassah. As Haman (boo) rises in power and seeks to exterminate the Jewish people, Esther is faced with a big decision: reveal herself to save her people or conceal her faith to protect her own life.

As we know in this heroic tale, Esther took a risk with her revelation and not only saved the Jewish people but normalized our existence throughout the Persian Empire and beyond. As history tells us, this may not have been the last challenge for the Jewish community, but we return to this moment every year to remember the impact of the masks we wear and the lightness that may come when we are unmasked, feeling safe, seen and supported as we are.

WHAT DOES A HOLIDAY OF MASKS TEACH US ABOUT VISIBILITY?

What does the 2,500 year old Purim story teach us about revelation and redemption?
Where does this apply to your own life?
To your community? To society at large?
Who is seen? Who is being concealed and who is in hiding?

WHAT ARE THE MASKS THAT SOCIETY EXPECTS YOU TO WEAR?

Consider culture, heritage, religion, ethnicity, residence, relationships, gender/sex roles, expectations around occupation/interests, age, health, wealth, goals, lifestyle, social life...

WHAT ARE THE MASKS THAT YOU WEAR?

Make a list of the roles, identities, and parts of yourself that make you who you are or that may be used to describe you.

Which of those masks (the essence of that role) were given to you?

Which of them did you choose? Which ones feel in alignment with who you truly are?

And which invalidate or misinterpret your identity?

IMAGINE YOURSELF UNMASKED, SEEN AS YOU ARE, FOR WHO YOU ARE...

How do you move through the world? In this freedom, how do you feel?

How do you respond to societal pressures or expectations?

How is your overall health when you live this way?

Who are YOU?

IN THIS WORLD OF MASKS, WHO IS BEING DEMONIZED OR NEGLECTED?

Think about the people in your direct community and expand from there. Consider immigrants, BIPOC (Black, Indigenous, People of Color), LGBTQ folks, non-binary folks, language learners, differently-abled folks, stigmas around mental health, etc.

WHAT MASKS ARE BEING IMPOSED ON OTHERS, SPECIFICALLY MARGINALIZED FOLXS?

What beliefs are being reinforced about people in these communities?
How might you have knowingly or unknowingly reinforced these ideas?

HOW DO WE SUPPORT PEOPLE IN UNMASKING THEMSELVES IN SPACES?

How can we support people in showing up as their whole selves?
What would it take for communities to truly honor Jewish multiculturalism?

IF WE WANT TO LIVE IN A WORLD FREE OF DISGUISES, WHAT IS REQUIRED OF US?

What questions do we need to ask ourselves in order to model this support genuinely?
What actions - both in the short term and long term - do we need to take?

**TO A HOLIDAY WITH MEANING,
HAPPY PURIM - JAG SAMEACH - FELIZ PURIM**

May we cultivate awareness about our own masks and the masks of those around us, so that we may collectively reveal the truest, most joyful versions of ourselves.

A person is seen from behind, standing in a field of tall, feathery grass. Their arms are raised high in the air, palms facing forward. The background shows rolling hills under a soft, hazy sky at sunset or sunrise, with a warm glow. The overall mood is one of freedom and connection to nature.

JEWTINA Y CO. IS AN ANTI-RACIST, ANTI-OPPRESSIVE JEWISH ORGANIZATION ON A MISSION TO CELEBRATE, EXPLORE, AND RAISE AWARENESS OF THE LATIN-JEWISH COMMUNITY AND EXPERIENCE. THROUGH OUR PROGRAMS, JEWISH LEARNING RESOURCES AND STORYTELLING PROJECT, COMMUNITY MEMBERS ARE ABLE TO EXAMINE AND CELEBRATE THEIR MULTIETHNIC, MULTIRACIAL AND MULTICULTURAL LATIN-JEWISH IDENTITY, WHILE ALSO CONNECTING TO SOCIAL ISSUES AFFECTING THE JEWISH AND LATINO/X COMMUNITIES.

FOR MORE INFORMATION ON JEWTINA Y CO. VISIT US AT [JEWTINA.ORG](https://www.jewtina.org)
AND FOLLOW US ON INSTAGRAM [@JEWTINAYCO](https://www.instagram.com/jewtinayco)

