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Rabbi Moses ben Nahman (1194-1270) wrote that “שעשו שמחה ויום טוב, כי כן חובה לשמוח בקבלת התורה” They rejoiced and made a festival, since there is an obligation to rejoice at the reception of the Torah” (רמב"ן).

Rabbi Hezekiah ben Manoah (1250-1310) wrote “שהם הוצרכו לאכול ולשתות שנהנו” In the same manner as those who cut agreements” and “מזיו שכינה That they needed to eat and to drink, since they benefitted from the splendor of the Divine presence” (חזקוני).

While not all commentators (and certainly not all Medieval commentators) believed it was a necessarily happy occurrence, it seems that they had their reasons to feast.

Another reason, of course, could be that they knew they were taking a big risk, and they ended up surviving! They were incredibly nervous and, having survived the ordeal, they were happy to feast and to drink in God’s presence.

Of course, a question that naturally arises: why did they haul all of that food and drink up with them? Perhaps they were ready to feast, and they came prepared to feast and to drink.



## Drinking Halakhah of the Week

Continuing from last week’s discussion of when one’s Purim festive meal should be taking place – during the day of Purim to fulfill one’s obligation (but one can still have one’s festive meal of eating and drinking during the night of Purim), when during the day is it supposed to take place?



Rabbi Moshe Isserles (1530-1572) writes (שו"ע או"ח ( 695.2): “ונוהגים לעשות סעודת פורים לאחר מנחה וערבית יתפלל בלילה ומתפללים מנחה תחלה בעוד היום גדול ורוב הסעודה צריך להיות ביום ולא כמו שנוהגין להתחיל סמוך לערב ועיקר הסעודה היא ליל ט"ו וכשחל פורים ביום ששי יעשו הסעודה בשחרית משום כבוד שבת (מנהגים) ומי שרוצה לעשותה תמיד בשחרית הרשות בידו We are accustomed to enjoy the Purim meal after the afternoon prayer, and pray the evening prayer at night. In praying the afternoon prayer while most of the day remains, since most of the meal needs to be during the day. And it should not be like those are accustomed to start close to evening, with most of the meal taking place during the night of the 15th. When Purim occurs on Friday, they should have the meal in the morning due to honoring the Sabbath. And one who wants to [have his meal] every [Purim] in the morning is allowed to.”

## New Podcast/Video Episode 🎧🎥



Rava, Mordechai, and Purim-Drinking featuring Rabbi Ayalon Eliach

# “Because man does not live on bread alone” (Deut. 8.3)

Begun in the fall of 2019, *JewishDrinking.com* is the #1 resource for texts, wisdom, and more on drinking in the Jewish tradition. Founded by Rabbi Drew Kaplan, who noticed that not only was there an increasing interest and awareness about drinking in the Jewish tradition, but also that there was no single website devoted to exploring this fascinating topic, he knew he had to create this project. With source sheets, weekly parashah sheets (although this issue is the final issue), weekly podcast/video episodes with guests, articles, and more, *JewishDrinking.com* sheds light on this activity in different ways. If you have comments, questions, suggestions, on either this parashah sheet and/or the website, please email [Drew@JewishDrinking.com](mailto:Drew@JewishDrinking.com) – ideas are welcome!

לחיים!