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Re: Purim 2017

TRUMP BUYS KOTEL

JERUSALEM—Israelis woke up this morning to discover a shocking alteration to the Western Wall in Jerusalem. The structure now bears the name TRUMP KOTEL in giant gold letters resting atop the ancient stone.

In a secret deal signed last week, Israeli Prime Minister Bibi Netanyahu sold the historic limestone wall, a 2,000-year-old remnant of the Second Temple in Jerusalem, to U.S. President Donald Trump in exchange for the American Embassy being moved from Tel Aviv to Jerusalem.

“Every Israeli knows that Jerusalem is the true capital of our nation, despite what other countries may claim,” Netanyahu declared at a press conference yesterday at the Kotel. “The relocation of the American Embassy to the Holy City sends a clear message to the world: Israel cannot be bought...unless it’s by Donald Trump.”

President Trump, who attended the press conference, shared details of the agreement. “I plan to build a 60-story hotel above the Western Wall,” he announced. “It will be called the Trump Kotel Hotel, and it will be huge—a huge convenience for tourists in Israel who wish to view this bigly sacred site.”

Asked if buying the wall would create a conflict of interest for him, Trump replied, “Conflict, shmonflict. My son-in-law Jared is an orthodox Jew, and he brokered the deal, so it’s all kosher.”

Trump indicated that he would break with Israel’s tradition of using Jerusalem stone for the new structure. “I’ll use Chinese steel instead, because it’s cheaper,” he explained. “Besides, more

chinks in the wall will mean more places for visitors to stuff their notes and prayers.”

The President said that the Trump Kotel would also put an end to the ongoing debate about women praying at the holy site. “I’ll build a wall between the women and the men,” Trump vowed, “and the women will pay for it.”



TRUMP HOSTS PURIM PARTY

NEW YORK—President Donald Trump and First Lady Melania hosted a Purim party at the Russian Tea Room in New York City on Thursday night.

“It was a huge success, huge,” Trump boasted at the evening’s end. “The menu included Russian caviar, Russian dressing, and cases of the finest Russian vodka.” He paused and chuckled, “Everyone was Russian to the bathroom.”

The centerpiece of the buffet was a giant chopped liver sculpture of Vladimir Putin, with a supply of Ritz crackers on the side. “We called it Putin on the Ritz,” the President joked.

Among those in attendance were families of Jewish White House staffers and friends, including Middle East advisor Jason Dov Greenblatt; U.S. ambassador to Israel David Friedman; political strategist Boris Epshteyn, financier Steven Mnuchin, and the President’s son-in-law and daughter, Jared Kushner and Ivanka Trump.

“We had a minyan for maariv,” Kushner stated.

The party included a kids' casino, where youngsters could gamble with real money. Melania Trump led children in a game of Russian roulette. "It's just like regular roulette," she explained, "only Russian."

In addition, Ivanka Trump operated a booth where she sold Russian gems and trinkets, under a large banner that read "Save Soviet Jewelry."

Despite the omnipresence of Russian items at the party, President Trump denied any ties to the Soviet country. "I've never met Putin and I have no deals in Russia," he insisted. "This is all just a fun Purim party."

Asked why he was wearing a baseball cap with the letters USSR on it, the President explained, "It's the initials of my new slogan. I've changed 'Make America Great Again' to 'United States Shall Resurrect.'"

TRUMP SUES PRINTER FOR TYPOS

WASHINGTON, DC—This week, President Trump's legal team filed a lawsuit in civil court against the printing company that prepared the programs for the Inauguration ceremonies on January 20.

The suit claims that a number of typos on the printed program caused embarrassment and defamation to the President and others connected with the Inaugural activities.

Among the typos were [sic] "The U.S. Marine Corps Band will play 'Hell to the Chief'; the President's wife was listed as "First Lady Melania Tramp"; the Swearing-In ceremony was billed simply as the "Swearing ceremony"; and the Inaugural Parade appeared as the "Inaugural Charade."

In addition, the suit alleges that several groups who performed at the Inauguration suffered

humiliation when their names were misspelled on the program, including "The Radio City Music Hall Rackettes" and "The Moron Tabernacle Choir."

At a news conference yesterday, President Trump commented on the lawsuit, in which he seeks damages totaling \$1 million, plus a free printing of the program for the 2021 Inauguration.

"The printer was a disaster," the President declared. "The only thing he spelled correctly was 'Inaugural Balls.' Lucky for him, because nobody messes with ..

DEMOCRATS TO HOLD FIRE SALE

WASHINGTON, DC—The Democratic Party, whose power in Congress was crippled by the Republican electoral victory this past November, has announced that it will hold a fire sale next month in an attempt to raise badly-needed money for the party.

Eliasz Feit, head of the Democratic National Committee, said the fire sale will include bumper stickers, posters, t-shirts, coffee mugs, and other memorabilia emblazoned with anti-Trump slogans that were promoted by the Democrats during the 2016 presidential campaign.

"The slogans include 'Dump Trump,' 'Bump Trump,' 'Lump Trump,' 'Hump Trump,' 'Trump Trump,' and 'Sump Pump Trump,'" said Feit.

"These are more than just collectors' items," Feit explained. "The slogans reflect the current feelings of more than half our nation, so they can be displayed and worn proudly by anyone who wishes to express their dissatisfaction with our so-called president."

AN INTERVIEW WITH JARED KUSHNER

The Jewish Week recently was granted an exclusive interview with Jared Kushner, senior advisor and son-in-law to President Donald Trump. Following are excerpts from our conversation.

As the President’s chief advisor, you are seen by many as a modern-day Mordechai from the Purim story.

Yes, my shver would readily agree. It would make him Achashverosh, not Haman.

Shver is the Yiddish term for father-in-law. Do you really call him that?

All the time. He likes it. And I call Melania my shvigger (Yiddish for mother-in-law). Steve Bannon and Jeff Sessions think it’s hilarious. They call me a “shvigger lover.”

You describe yourself as an orthodox Jew, yet you rode in a limousine on Friday night at the President’s Inauguration. How was that possible?

Ivanka and I received a *heter* (rabbinic allowance) from Rabbi Izzy Loud. He said we just had to be sure our seatbelts were fastened the entire time. Then it was considered like we were wearing the limo, not riding in it.

As the President’s senior advisor, you must be on call 24/7. Do you text on Shabbos?

No. I use an Alternative FAX. It comes with a heter, of course.

Do you wear a kippa in the White House?

No. My shver demands that everyone in the Oval Office be topless. If the Pope visits, he’ll have to remove his yarmulke, too. No exceptions.

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Is there a kosher kitchen in the White House?

Right now Ivanka has a hot plate and a blech in one corner. She hopes to expand the facilities soon, once she has more time to focus on it.

One final question. What makes you feel qualified to work in the White House?

Whenever I spent Shabbos with friends in Far Rockaway, I’d daven at the White Shul. I always felt comfortable there. So the White House isn’t such a stretch for me.

ANCIENT SCROLL REIGNITES BIBLE DEBATE

CAIRO—The recent discovery of a 3,000-year-old parchment on the banks of the Red Sea has revived a question that has vexed Bible scholars for millenia: Was Moses’ wife black?

The Bible in Numbers 12:1 calls the wife of Moses “a Cushite woman.” The Cushites are believed to have descended from northeast Africa. In addition, the Bible relates how Tziporah, Moses’ wife, hailed from Midian, and Midianites were known as a dark-skinned people.

Based on these Biblical references, many scholars insist that Moses’ wife was black. Others, however, maintain that Tziporah was white, like the Israelites.

The debate may now finally be put to rest. Last month, a fisherman on the banks of the Red Sea found an ancient parchment, which Bible experts say is written in Moses’ own handwriting. The text includes the phrase “Black Wives Matter.”

Scholars surmise that Moses coined the phrase after his brother Aaron and sister Miriam criticized him for marrying a Cushite. Furthermore, experts believe that Moses had no regrets over his choice of a spouse, as he writes later in the scroll, “Once you’ve gone black, you can’t go back.”

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SIAMESE TWINS STIR CONTROVERSY IN ISRAEL

JERUSALEM—Esau and Jacob were contentious twins, but they seem like lightweights compared to the pair of 18-year-old siblings now literally locked in a court battle in Jerusalem.

Jewish Siamese twins Siman Tov and Mazal Tov are joined at the hip. The twins each have their own pair of arms, but they share the same two legs. After their birth, doctors determined that an attempted surgery to separate the two bodies would be too risky and impractical, so the two have remained as one.

Raised as secular Jews in Haifa, the twins recently reached the age of legal emancipation. They each now possess the right to make their own decisions, but with conjoined bodies and personalities that are polar opposites, that is easier said than done.

Mazal, who is female, recently declared herself to be a religious feminist. She dons a talis and tefillin daily, and wishes to relocate to Jerusalem to pray at the Kotel with the Women of the Wall.

Siman, a male, remains a secular Jew with no interest whatsoever in any religious observances. While his sister prays each morning, he often watches television or eats pork to annoy her. He refuses to move to Jerusalem.

With lawyers unable to agree whether the case should be tried in a secular or religious court, it is now before Israel's Supreme Court. Judges there must decide where the twins will be allowed to live.

UPDATE: After an intense pre-trial mediation, the Tov twins announced that they have reconciled and withdrew their court case. In an amicable

settlement, Siman and Mazel have agreed to move to England, so the other one can drive.

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EL AL CAUGHT IN AIR BATTLES

TEL AVIV—El Al Airlines, caught in the middle of a number of gender-based disputes between religious and non-religious Jewish factions, is now faced with the daunting task of establishing a policy that will satisfy all its customers.

For many years, charedi (fervently religious) men have refused to sit next to women on the airplane. Recently, more women have strengthened their resolve to stay put and not change their seats to accommodate the religious request, which they feel is unwarranted.

Now, new sky battles are taking shape. Last month, a charedi gay man refused to sit next to another male on the plane, claiming that being in such close proximity to a man would be a violation of his religious rights.

In another case, a religious Jewish lesbian insisted that the woman sitting next to her change her seat. When the other woman refused, a catfight broke out in the aisle, resulting in the ejection of both women from the plane before takeoff.

This past week, a charedi transgender refused to sit next to a man or a woman. "I've looked at life from both sides now," the unidentified passenger said, "and my religion prohibits me from being in close contact with anyone on the plane."

Desperate to resolve all these thorny issues, El Al now finds some of its own employees a part of the problem. This month, one of its charedi male pilots refused to share the cockpit with a female co-pilot.

"Whenever she says the word 'cockpit,' I get aroused," the man admitted.

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IN THE MOVIES

La Lo Li Land—Inside an Israeli ulpan

Ooh La La Land—King of Persia marries the beautiful Esther

Mangrabber by the C—Trump describes his approach to women

Hidden Shviggers—Jewish women spy on their sons-in-law

Etroque One—A Sukkot war story

Binding Dory—God commands Abraham to sacrifice a fish

The Secret Life of Putz—Adventures of a dysfunctional Jewish single

Deepwater Verizon—Camera phone secretly records mikvah users

The Girl on the Chrain—A child grows addicted to horseradish

..Fantastic Beards and Where to Find Them—Walking tour of Crown Heights

Loonmight—Trump attacks his political enemies

A Rival—Hillary is shlonged again

Pences—Documentary about Vice President's family

Yekkie—Jackie Kennedy Onassis discovers her German roots

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AT THE THEATER

Sunset Bulova—Watch beeps when Shabbos starts and ends

The Gas Menagerie--Zoo animals are fed chulent

Hello, Deli—History of kosher restaurants in NYC

Charlie and the Chocolate Matzo Factory—A Passover fantasy

The Back Page--Israeli troupe performs "The Front Page"

Donald, Mike, and the Great Vomit of 2017—Americans are sickened by new administration

A Bronx Talis—Stray prayer shawl found on Mosholu Parkway

Come Away Frum—Jewish teens spend gap year in Israel

Katz—Man recites priestly blessing

Dear Evan Chazen—Congregant sends love letter to her cantor

Insignificant Brother—Cain and Abel story

Sex Degrees of Separation—Jewish couples observe family purity

Vicked—Yiddish actors perform "Wicked"

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