

# The Narrow Bridge

גשר צר מאוד

## INSPIRATIONAL QUOTES

Short Quotes from Various Tzaddikim - Week 162

To join our Whatsapp group for daily messages, contact us at 845-641-2648

לע"נ פעסל בת ישראל מנחם / לזכות חילינו

*The story of Purim reminds us that just because something feels final doesn't mean it is. Behind the scenes, strings were being pulled by a Hand no one could see. Haman's rise looked unstoppable – until it wasn't. The same palace, the same king, the same ring that signed destruction was used to write salvation. In a moment nobody saw coming, the narrative flipped entirely.*

*But a closer look at the story of Purim reveals that the original decree to annihilate the Jews was never technically erased. The royal seal that allowed our destruction could not simply be revoked; the threat didn't suddenly disappear. If so, what was actually the miracle?*

*It was that the Jewish people discovered they were not as powerless as they thought. They were given permission to stand up, to defend themselves, to fight back – and that's exactly what they did. The miracle was that a nation that had felt scattered, afraid, and resigned suddenly realized it still had strength; it realized that hope was not lost. They took a stand. They fasted. They united. And when the day came, they didn't crumble under fear – they rose with courage. The very people who thought they were at the mercy of history became active participants in shaping it.*

*We face our own "decrees" today. There are times when the pressure can feel relentless – personal struggles, financial strain, uncertainty about the future, and battles no one else sees. It's easy to believe that the situation in front of you is permanent.*

*But Purim whispers something different: even when the document isn't torn up, the story isn't over.*

*What looks sealed may already be unraveling behind the scenes. What feels hopeless may be one hidden step away from redemption.*

*The miracle of Purim wasn't only external; it was internal. It teaches us that sometimes challenges don't just disappear because we wish them away; sometimes the miracle isn't that the struggle vanishes, but that we realize we are stronger than the struggle.*

*That we can endure. That we can act. That we can fight for our family, our faith, our future.*

*Purim reminds us that no matter how dire the circumstances, we must never surrender to despair. Hold on, even if it's by your fingertips. Know that you are capable. Keep praying. Keep showing up. Keep believing that the story isn't over. Because Purim isn't just history – it's a reminder that salvation can arrive suddenly, quietly, and at the exact moment you think all is lost. It's a reminder that the turning point often comes when we stop seeing ourselves as doomed and start seeing ourselves as strong and resilient – and it's when we step into that strength that the miracle begins to unfold.*

INSPIRED BY THE TEACHINGS OF RABBI ELCHONON JACOBOVITZ

*If we truly understood another person's struggles, we would never judge them; we would simply embrace them.*

INSPIRED BY THE TEACHINGS OF REB ZUSHA OF ANIPOLI (1718-1800)

*Sometimes the harshest criticism comes from within. We set unrealistic standards, invent imaginary deadlines, and try to force ourselves into molds we were never shaped to fit. But spirituality is not standardized – there is no universal timeline for transformation.*

*Real change is deeply personal and purposeful. Unique journeys are not flaws in the system – they are the design of the system.*

*Different path. Different pace. Same worth.*

*Never measure your progress with someone else's ruler. You are not behind. You are not late. Silence the inner scoreboard. Compare yourself only to who you were yesterday, not to who someone else is today. Trust your journey, stay in your lane, and run your own race.*

*Growth flourishes in self-respect, not in self-contempt. Stop beating yourself for everything you think you aren't and start appreciating yourself for everything you already are. You don't become better by bullying yourself – you become better by believing you're worth the effort. Be patient with yourself, and move forward with faith. Celebrate the progress, and trust the process.*

INSPIRED BY THE TEACHINGS OF RABBI SHLOMO WOLBE (1914-2005)

# The Narrow Bridge

## גשר צר מאוד

### INSPIRATIONAL QUOTES

Short Quotes from Various Tzaddikim - Week 162

To join our Whatsapp group for daily messages, contact us at 845-641-2648

לענן פעסל בת ישראל מנחם / לזכות חילינו

*When most people think about the Purim story, they think about two people – Mordechai and Esther. That’s it. Those were the two heroes. The Jewish people were in danger, and they saved the day. But what if I told you there was another hero? What if I told you there was someone else you never heard of who saved the day? And what if I told you that person was a 10th grade student?*

*What if I told you there was a 10th grade girl who wasn’t a tzadeikes, who wasn’t interested in saying Tehillim during the mandated three day fast, and you know she did? She said it anyway. What if I told you there was a 11th grade boy who wasn’t in a good mood, who didn’t feel particularly confident about himself in life, who certainly didn’t want to wake up early for Selichos, and you know what he did? He woke up anyway. What if I told you that there was a mother who had a splitting migraine, who had ten thousand other things she’d rather be doing, who wasn’t interested in finding a babysitter so she can go to the gathering in shul, and you know what she did? She went anyway. What if I told you there was a guy working in downtown Shushan, who had a million things going on, who had 101-degree fever, who had no interest in learning Daf Yomi that day, and you know what he did? He learned it anyway. What if I told you they were the saviors? What if I told you they were the ones who tilted the scales? Would you believe me?*

*We often assume salvation comes with a crown on its head. We assume miracles only count when they’re dramatic, and public, and headline-worthy – a queen walking into a throne room or a leader defying a tyrant – that feels heroic. But what if the decree in Heaven was sitting at 50/50, perfectly balanced, and the thing that pushed it over wasn’t Esther’s entrance; it was some exhausted Jew whispering Tehillim through dry lips. What if Heaven was waiting for one more act of stubborn loyalty? One more “I don’t feel like it, but I’m doing it anyway.” What if the scales didn’t tip because of the palace, but because of a random classroom, or a kitchen, or an office somewhere in downtown*

*Shushan?*

*What if*

*Mordechai and Esther were the generals, but the war was won by foot soldiers who never really knew they were fighting?*

*What if the hero of Purim was someone who didn’t feel heroic? What if the hero of Purim was someone insecure?*

*What if the hero of Purim was someone in a terrible mood but continued to push forward, and when it was all over, they went back to their regular lives, never even realizing that in that one stubborn unnoticed decision they cracked open the gates of salvation?*

*What if the difference between gezeirah and geulah, between decree and redemption, is one decision that looks painfully ordinary while it’s quietly rewriting the story of the Jewish people?*

*Maybe that’s Purim... Of course, we love Mordechai. Of course, Esther was essential. But maybe the savior wasn’t written about in newspapers. Maybe the miracle of Purim wasn’t just royalty and royal decrees. Maybe it was some nondescript Jew, someone with the same struggles we face – the same distractions, the same yetzer hara – who chose to say one extra chapter of Tehillim. Maybe the scale of history tipped because of a decision no one applauded.*

*And maybe the Purim story isn’t just ancient history; maybe it’s happening on a random Tuesday afternoon. Maybe the world didn’t collapse today because of some quiet hero no one will ever hear about. Maybe the Jewish people weren’t wiped out today because of some nameless person who did one small thing right when no one was watching. Maybe an incoming rocket missed its target today because of someone who decided to cling to hope when giving up would be easier. Maybe the one who tips the scale, the one who triggers the final redemption isn’t someone famous or fearless. Maybe it’s someone who thinks they’re completely ordinary. Maybe that person is you.*

RABBI HILLEL EISENBERG

*Hashem may seem distant, yet there is no one closer. The space between heaven and earth is vast, and He is high above the universe, yet a person can stand quietly, utter a silent prayer, and it is heard clearly – as if whispered directly in a friend’s ear.*

*No prayer is ever overlooked, and no heart is ever ignored. To Hashem, your worries are never too small, your struggles are never too ordinary, and your prayers are never too insignificant. In a world filled with countless voices, yours is never lost before Him. When you speak, the Creator of the world listens.*

INSPIRED BY THE TEACHINGS OF RABBI SIMLAI, TALMUD YERUSHALMI (BERACHOS 9:1)

