

Purim People: Heroes by Choice and Chance

Purim is a yearly Jewish celebration that marks the day in which Esther and Mordecai heroically saved their people from death. The name of the celebration, *Purim*, means “lots.” Haman, the enemy of the Jews, drew “lots” (much like a game of chance using dice or a spinner) to decide the day of the death edict. Although Esther and Mordecai were somewhat surprised by their chance to be hero and heroine, they were good people who made that choice.

Today, we use the word *lot* in a similar way: “Each group leader was chosen by *lot*,” that is, at random, perhaps by drawing from a hat or picking a number. This word can also mean “fate,” as in, “It was my *lot* to be the oldest child.” We also use the word *lots* to say that there are many of one thing or another, such as: “There are lots of pages in a Bible!” “There are lots of virtues that make people heroes.” Facing unexpected difficulties with virtue creates heroes. Though the situation that creates a hero may be by *chance*, the characteristics that empower a hero are by *choice*.

What are the character traits that we find in heroes today? Think of all the qualities of a hero and begin your list by using the letters from the word *Purim*. Do not be limited to just those letters though. You should be able to list LOTS of virtuous qualities! Is there a hero in you?

P _____

U _____

R _____

I _____

M _____

