

# An Appeal to B'nei Yeshiva & Ba'alei Batim TO ELIMINATE DANGEROUS DRINKING ON PURIM

“One is obligated on this day [of Purim] to have an abundance of *simcha*, and to eat and drink to contentment. However, we are not commanded to become drunk to the point of diminishing ourselves through the *simcha*, for the *simcha* that we were commanded to have is not one of frivolity or foolishness but one of spiritual pleasure that brings us to the love of Hashem and praise for the miracles He performed for us.”  
(*Meiri, as quoted in the Bi'ur Halacha, Orach Chaim 695.*)

In recent years, the problem of dangerous drunkenness on Purim, especially among *b'nei yeshiva*, has reached alarming proportions, and has led to *sakonas nefoshos* and *chilul Hashem*. Medical doctors as well as representatives of Hatzolah have reported numerous instances of *bochurim* having to be rushed to hospital emergency rooms, some of them even placed on life-support systems, because of over-drinking on Purim.

To address this intolerable situation, we call upon the entire community that seeks to fulfill the *mitzva* of Simchas Purim properly, and especially our dear yeshiva *bochurim*, to take special care in drinking practices, and to adhere to the following suggested guidelines.

1. The mitzvah of “*Chayav adam l'v'sumei b'Puria...*” is preferably fulfilled with wine, as is stated in *Kitzur Shulchan Aruch* (142:6). Unrestrained use of whiskey and other alcoholic beverages is entirely inappropriate and absolutely contrary to *da'as Chachomim*.
2. *Ba'alei Batim* should not serve any alcoholic beverages, including wine, to groups of *bochurim* visiting their homes.
3. Those who drive under the influence of alcohol endanger not only themselves but also their passengers and other members of the public. Drivers must therefore not consume any alcoholic beverages, including wine, and must take extra care to drive safely, observing all applicable laws and safety procedures.
4. Nobody should enter a car if there is reason to believe that the driver is under the influence of alcohol, and all appropriate steps should be taken to prevent such an individual from driving.

In the merit of fulfilling the *mitzva* of Simchas Purim properly, may we be privileged to see *haromas keren Yisroel*.

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