



After the reading of *Megillas Esther* we recite the *piyut* of *Shoshanas Yaakov*: *The rose of Yaakov thrilled with joy and exulted when they beheld Mordechai garbed in royal blue. You were their salvation forever, their hope in every generation, to make known that all who trust in You shall not be shamed, nor shall all those who place hope in You be disgraced forever.*

The “Rose of Yaakov” refers to *Klal Yisroel* as they are referred to in *Shir HaShirim* (2:2): “As a rose among the thorns, so is my beloved among the daughters.” One may ask: Throughout *Tanach*, *Klal Yisroel* is referred to in many different ways. Why specifically in the context of the story of *Purim* are they referred to as a rose?

With an understanding of why *Klal Yisroel* is referred to as a rose, perhaps we can answer our question. The following is the explanation of the above *passuk* according to the *Seforno*: “As a rose only grows among the thorns, so is my beloved *Klal Yisroel* among the daughters, the nations of the world, for that is the only way they will turn to me.” As the *pasuk* states, “Hashem, in pain we remembered you.”

The *Gemara* states: *If the Jewish people repent, they are redeemed, and if not they are not redeemed. Rav Yehoshua said to him: If they do not repent, will they not be redeemed at all? Rather, the Holy One, Blessed be He, will establish a king for them whose decrees are as harsh as those issued by Haman, and the Jewish people will have no choice but to repent, and this will restore them to the right path.*

The redemption from the Jewish nation’s *Babylonian exile* was in fact through the story of *Purim*, where *Haman’s* terrible decrees led *Klal Yisroel* to *teshuva*, as the *passuk* states: *And in every province, wherever the king's orders and his edict reached, there was great mourning for the Jews, and fasting and weeping and lamenting; sackcloth and ashes were put on the most prominent.* Perhaps, since the Jews were led to do *Teshuva* from the “thorns” of *Haman*, we are referred to as roses during the *Purim* story.

