

R' Yaakov Mordecai Greenwald, a חסיד, related the following story, which is quoted by R' Zilberstein in his famous ספרים. Today we know that there are many secrets that are hidden in the תורה. You have computer ways of printing and looking at the letters. And we know that the תורה is נצחית. Hashem has many codes, as it is well known, hidden in the תורה. Over fifty years ago, there was a very famous rav, R' Michael Dovid Weissmandl, known as the גאון of the secrets of the תורה. He was referred to as the pre-computer - essentially a living computer before such technology even existed. He once shared the following fascinating insight. One פורים, R' Weissmandl approached R' Greenwald and asked, "Have you ever counted how many letters are in the מגילה?" R' Greenwald admitted, "I have no idea." R' Weissmandl responded, "There are 12,196 letters in the מגילה." R' Greenwald asked, "So what do you do with that information?" R' Weissmandl said, "Bring me a חומש. Let me show you something. Start counting from the first א in the תורה, which appears in בְּרֵאשִׁית. Count 12,196 letters forward. What letter do you land on? It will be a ס. Count another 12,196 letters, and you'll get a ת. Count another 12,196, you get a ר. That's the name of אסתר." R' Greenwald was amazed. Jokingly, he asked, "And what about מרדכי? We found אסתר - where is מרדכי?" R' Weissmandl smiled and said, "Check with me next year." The following year, R' Greenwald came to R' Weissmandl and greeted him with, "Where is מרדכי?" R' Weissmandl said, "I found the רמז from מרדכי as well. חז"ל say in (דף קל"ט) "מסכת חולין מנין, מסכת חולין - מרדכי מן התורה מנין, מסכת חולין (דף קל"ט) say in חז"ל. Where can we find מרדכי in the תורה? The פסוק (30:23) פרשת כי תשא says in תשא. And the תרגום of מרדכי is מְרִיאָה וְכִנְיָא מֶלֶךְ דְּרוּר, which is מרדכי. This is where מרדכי is hinted to in the תורה. Now, start taking from the letter מ in מֶלֶךְ דְּרוּר, and count your 12,196 letters, and guess what you'll find. You'll find the ר, and you keep going, get a ד, and a כ, and a י. There you have מרדכי in the תורה as well."

R' Greenwald later said, "I used this story for a very valuable purpose - it wasn't just for fun. A number of years later, we invited a young woman to our home. She was exceptionally intelligent - brilliant, in fact - but struggling tremendously with *ידישקייט*. She wanted to become frum, but she had endless questions, and the *רבנים* she spoke with couldn't handle her. They sent her to us because they felt she was too difficult for them. After the *סעודה*, she started asking me a series of difficult questions. One of her primary struggles was that she simply couldn't believe that the *תורה* came from *שמים*. She insisted it was impossible to accept. I was racking my brains, trying to think of what to say, and suddenly, I remembered R' Weissmandl's vort. I told her about the *פזרים* of *ענין* and shared with her the incredible *רמזים* of *מרדכי* and *אסתר* hidden in the *תורה*. She listened intently, then excused herself and went to her room. The next morning, we saw her - her eyes were bloodshot, and she looked completely exhausted. She told us she had spent the entire night on her computer, analyzing this vort. After hours of calculations and research, she reached a conclusion: 'It is statistically impossible for this to have happened by chance. Impossible.' And then, she left."

“A number of years later I was at a חתונה, and I heard a woman calling my name from across the room, “R’ Greenwald, R’ Greenwald!” I said “Excuse me, do I know you?” She said, “I am מרדכי and אסתר. You see, now, Baruch Hashem, my hair is covered. I’m married to a תלמיד חכם who’s going to kollel. We’re raising our children to go to ישיבה, and you’d be very pleased to see how we’re doing.”

That's one of the most fantastic stories about פורים I ever read. I made many copies of that story. Have a Happy Purim!

