

### **Iranian Jews # 3**

Hello from Harry Karp. It wasn't easy, but we've all made it through Passover. I hope that experience has led to redemption in some form for all of us. That is a Passover goal! Let's see what's coming with our Iranian friends who were redeemed on multi-levels.

In our third live class, we plan to explore the following:

#### **Success Stories and Challenges of Iranian Jews**

We will hear how these resourceful people adjusted to our culture and "made it".

It's amazing to learn which surprising skills could be transferable from Persia to America. Just how universal are "people skills?"

We will talk about how it could happen, that knowledge of English in advance, might not always be the asset it's expected to be.

What fears were our brethren running from? Was it the Ayatollah, their neighbors, the unknown or a combination? It was not a one size fits all answer. The Iranian government changes were unlike anything most of us have ever experienced. The Persian Jews overcame it all.

Hopefully there will be time to find out if the Ayatollah ever had any "good days" for Jews.

There seems to have been a few - certainly near Chanukah time. He was bad news, but not quite Haman.

I'm not sticking up for him, but the Iranian Jews did find out what happens if you do not bow to him.

Being a Chassid could help sometimes.

What about fitting in and acceptance by fellow Jews? How have our friends done in the U.S? It will be interesting to hear stories of how their acclamation worked towards that or didn't. The question will be asked," Just how secure is American Judaism with itself."

### **Admirable Customs of Persian Civilization in General**

You will enjoy learning how these people were forerunners of etiquette, long before Emily Post was around. Rabbis even called attention to some of their habits and deemed them worthy of Jewish emulation. Persians (sometimes) were thoughtful regarding their table manners, eating locations and food preparations.

They knew that a man lives differently than an animal and should eat differently as well.

The Persians contemplated the value of personal space and privacy way before other empires. Most cultures would take years to get that right.

We at the Myerberg plan to illustrate the Persian contribution.

Then we will learn about some of their inventive methods towards health and common decency.

No, they were not exactly righteous, but they did have many admirable ideas and traits for the Jews to learn from and adapt to. Those Persian Jews had over 2,000 years there to absorb.

**Finally,** we will ask the question- Is the Iranian Jewish transition over?

**Join us this Tuesday at 1 PM on April 21.**

Persian Carpet is optional