Light and Darkness

Eve: Adam

Adam: What?

Eve: I’m scared, something is really wrong here.

Adam: Hmmm, Are you talking about dinner? You could have used some salt.

Eve: no, no. It’s not the food; it’s the world.

Adam: What’s wrong with the world?

Eve: It’s getting dark faster every day. It’s like the sun is getting tired too quickly.

Adam: Eve! We must have done something bad! It’s all about us. God put us in charge and we failed! Oy vay!!

Eve: remember the light we had when we just showed up here?

Adam: Yeah, We had 36 hours of light, and we could see so clearly. The present, the future, the whole planet… but then it disappeared.

Eve: It is time to do something. Start praying. Be humble. It always works.

Narrator 1: So Adam was fasting and praying for 8 days and then he noticed that the days were getting longer and the nights were getting shorter.

Eve: It worked, yippee, we need a holiday!!

Narrator 1: So the festival of lights began its way to the world.

Maccabee 1: Did you just hear what I heard?

Maccabbee 2: What did you hear?

Macabbee 1: This dude…he said that the festival of light started with Adam and Eve,

2: Yeah, don’t worry about it, it’s just a Midrash, ‘Midrash Bereshit Rabbah’…not really from the Torah.

2: Hey!

1: What?

2: We are not from the Torah also.

1: Oh yeah… hmmm, but we are the maccabbees!!

1: Yes!! We are the reason for the festival of Lights ! The victory of the good over the evil, the light over the darkness, the few over…..

2: hey, hey… relax… It was a miracle from God, the oil that lasted 8 days, remember?

Farmer 1: Hey people, what are you called? macabbees? I don’t know who you are, but I don’t think I’ve seen you around in this land.

Farmer 2: If you are from Beit Hashmonai, then you must be from the future, but let me tell you something, festival of light – not your invention!

Farmer 1: It’s been a custom in our village for years. It’s the time we end the olive harvest and we make a lighting celebration, all with olive oil.

Japanese lady: ***Watashi no min Yin, Koko ni imashita***YAN ,WAY BEFORE YOU ***Seiyō hito***, WESTERN PEOPLE.

Everybody on stage: Wow!!!

Macabee 1: What was she saying?

Farmer 2: That her people celebrated the festival of light long before your people

Japanese: ***Kon'nichiwa, Sayōnara, Yoi tsuitachi***

Farmer 1: Okay, before us also.

Japanese: The Shintu people celebrate the time that the yin side of the sun ends and the yan side of the sun begins. This makes the sun more active and makes the days longer than the nights.

Maccabee 2: You just spoke English

Japanese: I know

Irani 1: The zaratustra people, originally from Iran, live in India today, celebrate the “Sada” – the eternal fire holiday.

They light a giant bonfire on the beach during the sunset to urge the sun to strengthen.

Hindu: We, the Hindis, have Diwali. It’s a five-day festival of lights, celebrated by millions of Hindus. We celebrate new beginnings and the triumph of good over evil and light over darkness. We release to the air thousands of lanterns that light the sky and scare away the dark.

Roman: I’m from Rome

Everybody: We can see that

Roman: We celebrate a special holiday in honor of Saturn. Saturn was the God of agriculture and harvest. The celebration is held near the shortest day of the year in honor of the birth of a new light that was called “the beginning of the year of the sun”

Santa: The Christians decorate their houses and cities with lots of lights during this time of year also.

Farmer 2: Who are you?

Santa: Santa Clause

Farmers: Oh ho ho ho

Sage 1: The light was the first element that God created

“וירא כי טוב “and he saw it was good. Ramban said that he wanted this light forever, others said that everything that was created after the light was actually created from it.

Sage 2: According to the Talmud this light is being stored and waiting to light the way for the righteous people in the end of time.

Light is a symbol of something good, pleasant and enjoyable. It represents enlightenment and wisdom, beauty and love, joy and affection.

Sage 3: We learned that the light in Judaism has much more than just physical qualities. It inspires tenderness, brightness and festiveness that penetrate the soul of man. In the Torah light represents grace, good will, and even being nice.

Sage 4: In Bamidbar chapter 6 God tells the Cohanim to bless the people by saying “יאר ה' פניו אליך ויחנך “ , it means May the Lord cause His countenance to shine to you and favor you.

להאיר פנים means to lighten the face to you – to like you.

Sage 5: We also sing והאר עינינו בתורתך ודבק לבנו במצוותיך

And that, light that we ask God to give us means – enlighten – understanding – wisdom.

Narrator 1: We could stand here for another hour or two and tell you many more facts about the light,,,

(everybody in background say yes, plenty, ….)

Sage 5:About the light in Art, in literature and in the Torah

Santa: Yeah, but the time is short, and we have to get ready to actually start celebrating this holiday of ours that has so many meanings for us and brings so much light to our lives.

Narrator 1: Please remain seated while we are getting ready to perform the dance of light.