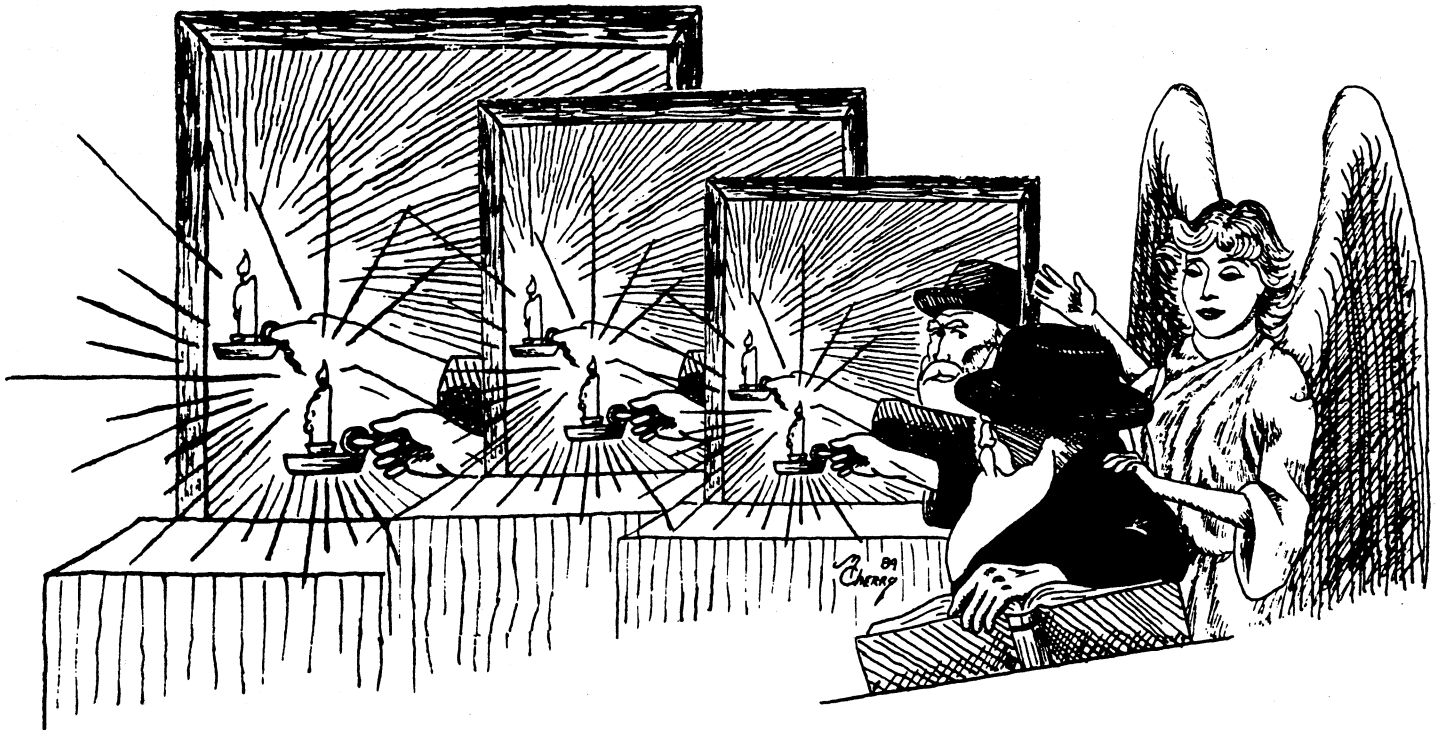


March-April
May-June
1989

הנה
Ha-ara

Adar II
Nisan
Iyyar
Sivan
5749



Ha-ara--"Reflection"

So what does it have to do with Purim?

The Hebrew word for reflection, *Ha-ara*, is related to the word *Or*-- light. One of the chief Kabbalistic metaphors describing where we come from is the "light shining off the *Ayn Sof*," the Unending One. This light has its beginnings in an unmeasurable energy field and it unravels to become our world and us.

The transformation of this light-energy to appear finite takes place through a series of reflections which diminish its original intensity. These reflections, and reflections of reflections, continue until the essential power which we are becomes masked.

As each stage of light becomes reflected from the previous one, a mirroring effect occurs where all the qualities on one plane become reversed on the next plane. On one plane of consciousness, Jacob's energy is superior to Esau's; on the next level, Esau's energy is superior.

Perhaps it is because of the awareness of these deeper levels that we are instructed to become so very intoxicated on Purim that we lose our discrimination concerning whether the "Mordechai" or the "Haman" part of ourselves is to be blessed or cursed. In this way we become freed from our habit of making unnecessary value judgements about ourselves and those we share this planet with. When we can accept all the polarities, then we can more easily tune into our ability to reflect divine energy, and we can participate in all the signs and wonders of creation not merely as evaluators, witnesses or tourists, but as co-creators.