



Passage #1: Drinking on Purim

Rava said: One is obligated to become inebriated [with wine] on Purim until they cannot tell the difference between cursed be Haman and blessed be Mordecai. Rabbah and Rabbi Zera joined together in a Purim feast. They became inebriated, and Rabbah arose and cut Rabbi Zera's throat. The next day, when he became sober and realized what he had done, Rabbah asked God for mercy, and revived him. The next year, Rabbah said to Rabbi Zera, "Let the Master come and let us prepare the Purim feast with each other." Rabbi Zera said to Rabbah, "Miracles do not happen each and every hour, and I do not want to undergo that experience again."

Passage #2 (optional): Rabbi Weilechowski's commentary on Passage #1:

Here are razor-thin lines of demarcation between a good time and a horrible one. Alcohol alters consciousness when used in the extreme, and things that don't seem possible or reasonable when sober, seem plausible and prudent even when drunk ... Rabbi Zera's comment that a miracle may not happen every time you seek one feels like a nod to the dangers of being that drunk, of having your perception altered to that extreme, was too dangerously close to the reality he might have awoken to, to take such a risk again." – Rabbi George Weilechowski's commentary on the text.