

**Manos Mail**

March 2, 2023

**Q** May *mishlo'ach manos* be shipped with UPS before Purim if it will arrive on Purim?



**A** One may certainly fulfill the mitzvah through a bona fide *shliach*—a Jew that is a *bar da'as*—because *shlucho shel adam kemoso* (a person's proxy is like him). It is even preferable to do so, as Shu"t Binyan Zion (44), quoted in the Mishnah Brurah (695:18), contends that *mishlo'ach manos* might require a *shliach*, as that is meaning of *mishlo'ach*. Still, the consensus of contemporary *poskim* is that one certainly fulfills the mitzvah even if he handed over the *manos* directly.

But can one fulfill the obligation through a non-Jewish agent like a UPS courier?

We find three views on the purpose of *mishlo'ach manos*: a) The Trumas Hadeshen says it is to ensure that everyone has food for the *seudah*. b) The Manos Halevi and the Chida say it is to increase friendship and *achdus*. c) The Aruch Hashulchan and others say it is to increase happiness by giving to others. According to the first two views, as long as the recipient receives the package on Purim, the sender

fulfills the mitzvah. But according to the third, the sender must do his act of giving on Purim, so he must either appoint a halachic *shliach*—even in advance, for delivery on Purim—or ship it with a courier on Purim for same-day delivery. The general consensus of contemporary *poskim* seems to follow the first two views, so they permit sending *mishlo'ach manos* via a non-Jew before Purim if it will reach the recipient on Purim.