

פארברענגען עם הרבי

י"א ניסן תשמ"א

In honor of Yud Aleph Nissan this year, a new Farbrengen was released by JEM - Yud Aleph Nissan, 5741. The recording includes many exciting experiences and *Sichos* on a very wide variety of subjects; spanning from the *Avoda* of the Yid in this world creating a *Dira b'tachtonim*, to the (then) recent assassination attempt on President Reagan.

It is in connection with this Farbrengen that we bring the following story, though a bit less-known, it is truly a remarkable episode and bears quite a powerful message for us all.

In the year 5740, the Rebbe's *Shluchim* to Morocco wished to broaden their spectrum of activities and therefore decided that it was high time they establish a Yeshivah there; and they would settle for no less than an authentic branch of *Tomchei Tmimim*.

With the assistance of the *Hanhala* at the central Yeshivah in New York, a group of *Bochurim* was selected and already by Teves time of the year 5741, "Yeshivah Gedolah of Casablanca", Morocco was already in session.

Before their departure from New York, the *Bochurim* were privileged to hear a *Sicha* outside the Rebbe's room, during which the Rebbe blessed them personally with success in their new undertaking. Interestingly, one of the terms the Rebbe used was: "הער'ן בשו"ט דארט'ן בשו"ט דארט'ן. בשו"ט דא (משם)..."..

("You should hear good news (from over here); and [we] should hear good news (from over there)").

Faithful to their mission, the *Bochurim* began their work with utmost dedication, studying *Nigleh* and *Chassidus* diligently and engaging in much communal work, breathing new life into the ailing ancient Jewish communities of Morocco.

Perhaps one of the most difficult aspects of *Shlichus* then for any Chossid, and especially so for Yeshivah *Bochurim*, was the physical distance that separated them from the Rebbe. Nevertheless, knowing that by doing their work they fulfilled the Rebbe's wish and keeping themselves connected even from their far away locations by all possible means, the Shlichus was carried out happily.

As it was already in the later years of the Rebbe's *Nesius* and new advances of modern technology were well available, *Shluchim* in Chabad centers all across the globe enjoyed listening to all the Rebbe's weekday Farbrengens live via hookup.

One can only imagine how disappointing it was for the *Talmidim Hashluchim* of Morocco to learn that their country would have to be excluded from this lifeline of *Hiskashrus*. Being that Morocco was largely an Islamic country it was not advisable to listen in to the Rebbe's talks where he often spoke harshly about the Arab nations and in favor of *Eretz Yisroel*. The local *Shliach*, Rabbi Shlomo Matusof feared that the Government would possibly tune in to their communication lines and accuse them of sympathizing with Israel, resulting in severe consequences.

The *Bochurim* were devastated. Come what may, they were determined to hear the Rebbe's holy words and reconnect, much as their colleagues in the most farflung corners of the world.

Yud Shevat came and went; no Far-

brengen from the Rebbe.

A few weeks later a friend of theirs back in New York sent over a copy of a videotape of the Rebbe's Yud Shevat Farbrengen. After watching the video, the burning desire in their hearts burst forth and the *Bochurim* could contain themselves no longer. They would take matters into their own hands!

The Rebbe's last words to them before they departed on their *Shlichus* echoed in their minds "Hear *B'suros tovos* from over here". What could be considered true *B'suros Tovos* if not the Rebbe's Farbrengen, live?

Immediately, Rabbi Chaim Boruch Halberstam of WLCC was contacted and he was readily designated a phone line in his communication center for transmitting Farbrengens to Morocco.

But who would cover the high cost of keeping up the line? After all, the whole episode had to be kept a secret from the local *Shluchim*. Not letting any obstacle stand in their way, the *Bochurim* decided to collect all the money they received for their own spending and hoped that the total sum would suffice to cover their costly endeavor.

Wonder of wonders! In honor of Yud Aleph Nissan, 5741, the Rebbe's 79<sup>th</sup> birthday, the *Shluchim* in Morocco broke through history with their unrelenting efforts and listened to the Rebbe's "*Divrei Elokim Chayim*"!

Indeed, the Rebbe's blessing bore fruit;

"הערן בשורות טובות דארטן – מכאן"

Although placed in a rather difficult situation, this group of resolute young *Bochurim* did not let anything stand in their way and withhold their lifeline of *Hiskashrus* to the Rebbe. They trusted that the Rebbe's *Brocha* to them would eventually materialize and they would hear the intended *B'suros Tovos*, even if it took effort on their own part.

Today as well, and in fact now more than ever, we must maintain this same lifeline of Hiskashrus utilizing the available means of modern technology to listen to the Rebbe's words, "הנחמדים מזהב.. ומתוקים מדבש".