

# כ"ה סיון תנש"א

## KOVETZ CHOF CHES SIVAN

The day of Chof Ches Sivan deserves unprecedented commemoration by the Chossid of *Dor Hashvi'i*. It was on this day that the fraction of the Rebbe's aura known so well to the world throughout the years first began to sprout out in the open. Thanks to the intuition of a few *Bochurim*, in the later years of the Rebbe's *Nesius*, this day was added to the *Chassidische* calendar – commemorated by the Rebbe (and subsequently by Chassidim) in various ways.

*The most memorable celebration of the day of Chof Ches Sivan was undoubtedly in 5751. That year marked fifty years since the Rebbe and Rebbetzin's arrival in New York in 5701, and in honor of the day, a unique pamphlet was compiled, consisting of the Sichos and Maamorim that had been said or published by the Rebbe in connection with the day. The pamphlet also contained documentation of the Rebbe and Rebbetzin's escape from war-torn Europe and safe arrival in the United States. And to the chassidim's surprise, the Rebbe announced that he personally would distribute the pamphlet to all; men, women, and children.*

*The following are excerpts of a diary kept by a bochur in 770 at the time:*

### **SUNDAY, THE NIGHT OF CHOF CHES SIVAN**

The Rebbe entered for Maariv, and the Shul was crowded with many guests that had arrived from around the world to be in the Rebbe's presence on this momentous day. The niggun "Uforatzta" broke out excitedly among the crowd, and, upon reaching his place, the Rebbe vigorously encouraged the singing.

Throughout the night, Farbrengens were held in 770 and all across the neighborhood to commemorate the auspicious day.

### **MONDAY, CHOF CHES SIVAN**

Today, I heard a lengthy report regarding the newly published "Kovetz Chof Ches Sivan." The booklet was compiled by a handful of Bochurim with the assistance of

the members of Vaad Hanochos Hatmimim. Around a week ago, they had written to the Rebbe about the idea and the Rebbe responded (on Chof Sivan), "[do] as Agudas Chabad and Tzeirei Agudas Chabad [say]; may it be with much success." The members of these organizations suggested the material be reviewed by professionals.

On Friday, Chof Hei Sivan, a draft of the publication was submitted to the Rebbe, which included a large introduction detailing the significance and history of the day, and the Maamorim and Sichos that had been said or published by the Rebbe during previous years in connection with the day.

On Sunday, the Rebbe added a date at the end of the introduction, "Erev Chof Ches Sivan," and further instructed that the mate-

rial be reviewed one more time. Meanwhile, an idea was proposed to also include the synopsis of the Rebbe's activities in America, which is recorded in "Hayom Yom," and the Rebbe agreed.

We also found out that, following maariv, the Rebbe was going to distribute the Kovetz to everyone.

The Rebbe returned from the Ohel approximately twenty minutes before sunset, and, shortly thereafter, entered the Shul for Mincha.

Following Mincha, the Rebbe descended from the Bima and received a blessing from Reb Zalman Gurary, on behalf of all of Anash, in honor of the day. Reb Zalman spoke with great emotion as he referenced the spiritual transformation the Rebbe had orchestrated in the world since his arrival in 5701, and wished the Rebbe immeasurable success in continuing in this direction until the long-awaited redemption. All the while, the Rebbe stood with closed eyes, and, occasionally, seemed to wipe away a tear. It was a most stirring moment to behold!

When Reb Zalman finished the Rebbe lifted his eyes and said, "There are Kohanim here, let them recite Birkas Kohanim as always." Rabbi Yosef Gutnick then blessed the Rebbe with Birkas Kohanim, after which the Rebbe began a Sichah that lasted a quarter of an hour. Among the various topics, the Rebbe also made mention about the specialty of 770 and its significance in this generation.

After Maariv, the Gabbai Reb Zev Katz

announced in the name of the Mazkirus, that since the booklets had not yet arrived from the printer, there would be a short intermission for fifteen minutes. (It should be noted that the Rebbe had spent almost the entire day at the Ohel and was still fasting. It was anticipated that in the meantime the Rebbe would go up to his room and break his fast). The Rebbe smiled broadly and said, "They have announced about an intermission; that would be a waste of time. Instead, we'll make a continuation."

The Rebbe again began with a Sicha, lasting for ten minutes.

At approximately 9:20, the distribution of the Kovetz began. Throughout the three hours of distribution, the Rebbe seemed to be in high spirits - smiling to many passersby, especially children, and blessing all those in need. At 12:02, the Rebbe left the Shul while encouraging the singing of "Uforatzta".

The atmosphere in 770 was indescribable. Many Bochorim and Anash broke out in joyous dancing, while others immediately sat down to study from the new Kovetz, which they had just merited to receive from the Rebbe's holy hand.

Later on, a magnificent Farbrengen came to pass in the main Shul at 770, lasting well into the early hours of the morning - a natural result of the extraordinary events that had just transpired.

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