



# Our Month

Already from a young age, children raised in a Lubavitcher household know that Kislev is a time teeming with Chassidisher Yomim Tovim. Indeed, many are familiar with the Chassidisher maxim said in regard to Kislev - "A Chassidisher Chodesh." The following is based on a Sicho where the Rebbe explores this saying and how every Chossid can relate to it.

**A**t the root of the various special dates within the month of Kislev lies one principle: they each have a firm connection with the spreading of Chassidus. In their historical order, the Rebbe discusses these special dates, explaining their role in this direction.

## CHANUKAH

Oil, the main character in the miracle of Chanukah, represents the inner secrets of the Torah – Pnimitiyus Hatorah. Just as oil is procured from the squeezing of the olive, so too, the secrets of the Torah remain hidden, deep beyond the surface.

## YUD TES KISLEV

On this day, the Alter Rebbe was released from incarceration on two separate occasions. Following his final release, the Alter Rebbe plunged into teaching Chassidus with an enthusiasm that dwarfed his previous efforts. This date became known among Chassidim as the **Rosh Hashana L'Chassidus**, as the Chassidus taught in this time frame of the Alter Rebbe's life became the bedrock of future Chassidic literature.

## YUD KISLEV

The Mittler Rebbe, who was released from prison on this date, was Zoche to have passed away on the same day as his birthday. The Torah explains this phenomenon in regards to Yitzchak Avinu, determining that passing away on one's birthday reflects a sense of completion – as though one's time was complete and one's work accomplished.

[Although this was not the case by the other Rabbe'im in a physical way, nevertheless, being that they are connected to one another, in a certain sense, they had this accomplishment as well.

This that the Mittler Rebbe lived out all his years complete to the day, only amplifies in a tangible manner, that all the Rabbe'im completed every last iota of their mission, just as if they would have lived out their years completely. Nevertheless, it is the Mittler Rebbe that brought this wholesomeness to a physical level.]

## ROSH CHODESH KISLEV

The brain controls the entire body because each limb is intrinsically included within the brain. So too, Rosh Chodesh – the head of the month – contains all the rest of the days of the month, and needless to say, all the Yomim Tovim of the month.

Although we have only discussed a few of them here, for Chassidim, Kislev boasts the most Yomim Tovim throughout the year, and in truth, the entire month is one long Yom Tov!

The Rebbe concludes with a clear message for each of us:

We must follow the lead of the Mittler Rebbe who fused the spirit of Chassidus with the material of this world, and harness the momentum of the many special dates in Kislev.

During Kislev we must resolve to increase in our learning of Chassidus. Ideally it should be done as follows:

Chassidim – men, women, and children –

should gather together on each day of Kislev and learn an additional portion of Chassidus that they would not have learnt until then. Primarily, one should focus on the Chassidus of the three "forefathers" of Chassidus, the Baal Shem Tov; the Mezritcher Maggid; and the Alter Rebbe.

If one is able, he should also learn [a little] from all the Rabbe'im. One should make a priority of learning from the Seforim that have recently been published.

We must spend extra time throughout this month sharing Chassidus with those who haven't yet been fortunate enough to learn it.

Additionally, a Chassidisher month must come with an increase in Farbrengens – a staple in a Chossid's growth. On every Yoma D'pagra during the month, Chassidisher Farbrengens should be organized in any location where Jewish people may be, catering for people of all ages and backgrounds. In truth, if you analyze any day of Kislev you can find a reason to Farbreng, so ideally a Farbrengen should be held on every day of Kislev!

All the above should be done consistently and with a Shturem!

Without a doubt, if we all make the effort to act upon everything we've mentioned here, this will fully accomplish what Moshiach is waiting for – "לכישפוצו מעינותיך" – "הוציאה" – the absolute dissemination of Chassidus, which will lead to Moshiach's speedy arrival and the transformation of the month of Kislev into "חודש הגאולה"!