



זרח השמש

The day of Yud Shevat is linked with a monumental series of events, which impact us even today. On this day, in 5710, the Frierdiker Rebbe was Nistalek, following which the Rebbe instituted numerous minhogim for Chassidim to observe each year. And as one era drew to a close, the Nesius of Lubavitch was passed on to our Rebbe, who continues to lead us until the coming of Moshiach. A Chossid may wonder; how does this day affect me most? What is the message that I should take from Yud Shevat?

Chazal teach¹ that the posuk “Vezorach Hashemesh, Uba Hashemesh” – literally translated as “The sun rises and the sun sets” – refers to the passing of leadership from one Nossi to the next. Just as it was the case regarding the transfer of leadership from Moshe to Yehoshua, so too, in every generation, one nossi passes on the nesius to his successor.

Although there sometimes was a time gap between one Nossi and the next, the Nossi who assumed the position of leadership was always pre-ordained, thus ensuring that Klal Yisroel were not left without their roye neeman for even a moment.

The Baal Shem Tov continued the unbroken chain of Nesiim stemming from Moshe Rabeinu. The Mezritcher Magid and the seven Rebbeim of Lubavitch who carried the chain forward, each embodied the qualities of a Melech and a Nossi.

(It should be noted that until the time of the Baal Shem Tov, although there was a Nossi in each generation, the identity of this Nossi was not necessarily revealed and known. With the revelation of Chassidus in the world, the Baal Shem Tov brought about that the Nossi will be revealed for all to know).

A Melech and Nossi assume identical roles in being both the “Moach” (mind) and “Lev” (heart) of Klal Yisroel. One the one hand, they steer Klal Yisroel’s every move through the Torah they teach and

the instructions they advise, similar to how the brain directs the body, and on the other hand, they function as the heart of every Jew, infusing life and spirit to cater to every need.

Each of the Rebbeim were clearly not just a leader to their own Chassidim, rather they took upon themselves responsibility for the physical and spiritual wellbeing of every Jew, even those who outwardly shunned Chassidus.

However, with many of the Rebbeim it took several months, or even years, until they openly accepted the Nesius. And yet, because the Moshe Rabbeinu of every generation has already been predetermined, it therefore becomes clear later that the moment the previous Nossi passes, the next one has already initiated the intrinsic bond that a Nossi has with every Jew.

Thus the day when Chassidim and indeed all of Klal Yisroel are joined with their new Nossi is a day of tremendous joy, a joy that is born of two ideas:

1) The day a Tzaddik becomes the Nossi Hador is a tremendous simcha for him and to every Jew who is connected to him.

2) On this day, the life of every Yid is imbued with the added spirit the Nossi gives him.

Indeed, year after year on Beis Nissan (the day the Rebbe Rashab passed away), the Rebbe would speak passionately about it being the day when the Frierdiker Reb-

be became the Nossi, and the feelings such a day demands.³

In our generation this day is Yud Shevat. While it is the Yartzeit of the Frierdiker Rebbe, what pertains more personally to us, is the Rebbe accepting the nesius. It is because of this day that we have merited sixty-three years of the Rebbe’s love and care. The Rebbe taking leadership on this day enabled Yiddishkeit and Chassidus to blossom the world over, and herald the coming of Moshiach.

When Chassidim reflect upon the magnitude of this day, it certainly awakens great joy – Ashreinu, how fortunate we are to have merited to being taken under the Rebbe’s wings!

This day is a Yom-tov like no other. One should strive to spend this day in the Rebbe’s presence. It is a day to Farbreng with fellow Chassidim, and to strengthen our resolve in fulfilling what the Rebbe desires from us. Certainly this will hasten the arrival of the time when the sun will again shine brightly, when we will be reunited with our beloved Rebbe.

1. Based on the Sicha of 3 Nissan 5742, 20 Cheshvan 5743, and a letter from 2 Nissan 5710.

2. This is discussed in depth in the Sicho of Beis Nissan 5748.

3. During Adar of 5741, a Rabbi Landau from Eretz Yisroel who was visiting the Rebbe at the time, wrote to the Rebbe that he is returning to Eretz Yisroel. The Rebbe responded: “If possible, you should remain (in New York) until 2 Nissan – the day the Frierdiker Rebbe assumed leadership.”