



# The Perfect Note



Reb Shmuel Katan relates:

The first time I traveled to the Rebbe was in honor of Tishrei 5729. Before I left on my journey, my family suggested that I take my violin along with me.

On Motzei Simchas Torah the Rebbe distributed Kos Shel Brocha, as was his usual practice at the end of a Yom Tov.

Right before it was my turn to receive wine, Rabbi Yakov Yosef Raskin suggested that I ask the Rebbe permission to play. When I came before the Rebbe, taking up his suggestion, I said, "Rebbe, I am requesting permission to play my fiddle", the Rebbe gave me a bottle of Mashke, however he did not answer my request. Due to the pressure from Rabbi Raskin, I went back and asked the Rebbe again. This time I received a positive reply, "Very good, with pleasure."

The first niggun I played was Essen Est

Zich. When I had finished, the Rebbe requested from to please replay the last stanza, adding *pianissimo* (which is an Italian term used for music, which means to begin higher and end on a softer note).

The Rebbe then asked me to play Uforatza. I hurriedly complied but I made several changes. By each one the Rebbe hinted with his hand and said, "That's nussach Eretz Yisroel". He then instructed me to play it again, explaining that this niggun needs to start on a more refined note and lead up to a stronger more powerful one, when I finished

he said, "Now he's singing nussach Bavel".

The Rebbe then asked me to play Ki B'simcha. During the niggun he left the room. The smile and pleasure on the Rebbe's face while he was making a Bracha Achrona was quite evident to all those present.

