



# A NOSSI IN ESSENCE

A birthday of a Nossi is indeed a monumental day. Yet theoretically, shouldn't this day be more pertinent to the Nossi himself, rather than to the men, women and children of his generation? Looking at how the Rebbe addressed the Frierdiker Rebbe's birthday presents revolutionary food for thought as we approach the 111th birthday of our Nossi.

The<sup>1</sup> Gemora<sup>2</sup> teaches us: "*Bosor Reisha Gufa Azil*" – "The body follows the head."

As human beings, we are acutely aware of the role that our head (brain) plays in our lives. Every movement of any muscle throughout our body – even including the toenail – is dependent on the brain, and similarly, anything that happens to our brain subsequently affects the rest of the body.

Thus, in a positive sense, when the head (brain) is revitalized, the body is empowered as well.

This analogy is often used throughout *Nigleh* and Chassidus to describe a *Nossi's* connection with his generation. Whatever transpires by the *Nossi*, even in his personal life, is pertinent to every person of his generation – even those whose spiritual distance from the *Nossi* is described in the analogy as a "toenail."

A story occurred with the Frierdiker Rebbe that illustrates this idea:

In 5657, when the Frierdiker Rebbe was getting ready for his wedding, his father, the Rebbe Rashab, suddenly fell ill. The doctors in the vicinity of Lubavitch, unable to cure the Rebbe Rashab, suggested he travel to Moscow to see the specialists there.

The Rebbe Rashab and Rebbetzin Shterna Sara traveled to Moscow and met with specialist doctors. However, they too seemed not to know how to cure the Rebbe Rashab; it seemed as if things could not get better.

Returning to his hotel, the Rebbe Rashab confided in Rebbetzin Shterna Sara that he wanted to travel to Eretz Yisroel because he felt his end was near<sup>3</sup>. "What will be with the Chassidim?" The Rebbetzin asked.

The Rebbe Rashab responded: "Our son [mentioning

the Frierdiker Rebbe by name] will remain and will do this."

Ultimately, the Rebbetzin convinced the Rebbe Rashab to stay in Lubavitch, where he guided the Chassidim until his *Histalkus* in 5680. However in speaking those words, the Rebbe Rashab demonstrated the intrinsic connection a *Nossi* has with his Chassidim, and the generation at large, clarifying that even while he would be in Eretz Yisroel – even while he would still be alive – the next *Nossi* was already in touch with the "*Ispashtusa D'Moshe*," which connects him to the Yidden.

The Frierdiker Rebbe repeated this story numerous times, indicating that there is a significant message for each of us to learn from it.

Each year on one's birthday, all aspects of his life and being are revitalized. On the Birthday of a *Nossi*, his every *Mekushar* is elevated on this day, and this is strengthened each year. The aforementioned story conveys how the *Nesius* is pertinent already from birth, and how our *keshar* with the *Nossi* is strengthened each year on his birthday, even prior to the *Kabbolas Hanesius*.

This message has tremendous implications for every Chassid as he approaches the *Yom Huledes* of his Rebbe. The renewed vitality in *Hiskashrus* made available on this day demands that one make practical alterations to strengthen his *Hiskashrus* to his Rosh.

*Ashreinu*, how fortunate are Chassidim on such a day!

1. The following is based on the Sicha of 12 Tammuz 5717. *Toras Menachem* vol. 20 page 112. See also *Toras Menachem* vol. 19 page 59.

2. *Sotah* 45, 2. See as well *Eruvin* 41, 1.

3. It seems that many of the Rebbeim yearned to visit Eretz Yisroel prior to their *Histalkus*.