

WHAT ARE YOU WAITING FOR?

A VISIT FROM THE ALTER REBBE

In this letter, addressed to Reb Yisroel Meir Altein, then Shliach in Pittsburg, Pennsylvania - the Rebbe admonishes him of his duty in Hafotzas Hamayonos. The letter is translated from the Rebbe's Igros Kodesh vol. 3 pg. 48

Presented in honor of 24 Teves.

B”H, 10 Shvat, 5709

Greetings and blessings,

I am surprised that regarding the Chalukas Hashas, you report that only yourself and Rabbi Shalom Posner participated. After all the years that you have been in your community, have you not been able to bring **even one** person under your influence? And if this is true with regard to *nigleh*, how much more so does it apply with regard to the inner dimensions of the Torah and its *mitzvos*, to which the *yetzer hara* shows much greater opposition and invents all sorts of prepared explanations. When will you finally begin doing your share to spread forth the well-springs of the Baal Shem Tov's teachings? *Mashiach* is waiting for the activities of each one of us so that the answer he gave the Baal Shem Tov will be fulfilled and he will then come and redeem us from exile — the exile of the body and the exile of the soul.

I don't write this as an abstract interpretation at all; rather this is what is written in the holy letter of the Baal Shem Tov according to its most simple meaning.

My intention in posing the above questions is not [merely] to motivate you to find several people who will participate in the Chalukas Hashas; rather, it is that you, and your friends in your

community, should each create an environment that should be a Lubavitch hotbed, which Hashem's *hashgocha* has, for this time, implanted in your community. That, should the Alter Rebbe travel around the world and come to your community, he would not come to a foreign place. Rather he would meet a group of people who identify with him and a Beis Medrash that also identifies with him. There would be tattered pages of Chasidische Seforim on the floor and the air would be filled with the letters of Torah [studied] with *Yiras Shomayim* in general, and with the letters of *Chabad Chassidus* in particular. For although [the letters of study] ascend upward, an eternal impression is left in the air. And as is well known, regarding every entity in the sphere of holiness, [even if the entity itself is removed,] the impression remains.

Until when will this task be postponed? In the interim, the entire Jewish people are found in exile, in twofold darkness in which the curse of each day is more severe than that of the preceding one. In particular [this applies at present], when there are those who have begun to call darkness, light, and servitude, redemption.

Give my regards to all the members of our fellowship. Certainly, the statements in this letter are relevant to all of them. ■