

Special Deliverance

DELIVERY OF TUNISIAN SEFER TORAH SAVES TUNISIAN JEWISH COMMUNITY FROM HARM

Shlichus in the city of Tunis, Tunisia, was not very comfortable for shluchim Reb Nisson ע"ה and Rochel Pinson שי. The Tunisian government was notoriously known as one that was harsh with its citizens, and the Jewish community felt the brunt of it.

In fact, Mrs. Pinson once mentioned to the Rebbe in Yechidus that not only is she certain that her phone conversations are recorded by the government, but even when she speaks to people face-to-face she fears that somehow the government is listening in.

The Rebbe responded to her that this is even worse than Russia!

However, in 5729 tensions had reached their climax. The Pinsons feared that the government was planning on shutting down all the Lubavitcher mosdos and banishing the Shluchim from the country.

Realizing the gravity of the situation, the Shluchim immediately sent a message to the Rebbe asking for a Brocha.

The Rebbe's reply caught them by surprise; The Jewish community of Tunis should send one of their Sifrei Torah to the Rebbe and the Gezeira will become botul!

Without hesitation, Mrs. Pinson and her son Yosef Yitzchok began preparing for their journey. They set aside the Sefer Torah that would be taken to the Rebbe. Reb Nisson was unfortunately unable to travel because the government did not grant him permission to leave.

Once they had arrived in New York, they had a Yechidus together with Reb Nissons brother, Reb Shia Pinson

(Gabai of 770). The Rebbe instructed that this sefer Torah be checked through to ensure:

- 1) That פצוע דכא be written with an Alef (not with a Hey as other have the Minhog).
- 2) That the Shins are written with a pointy bottom, and not a flat one.



The Rebbe then said that once they bring back the Sefer Torah, he will personally bring it down to the Aron Hakodesh in 770! The Rebbe concluded by saying that on Shabbos he would get an Aliya in it and afterward there would be no more troubles in Tunis.

It was very important, stressed the Rebbe, that this all happen in a very low key fashion, therefore the Sefer Torah would be brought into 770 when it is very empty; on Erev Shabbos. The Rebbe also said that he would say a Ma'amer in honor of this special occasion.

The Sefer Torah was brought to the Rebbe, fully



checked, on Erev Shabbos Slichos 5729. Reb Shia Pinson, Reb Binyomin Gorodetzky, Reb Michael Lipsker and Mrs. Pinson entered the Rebbe's room with the Sefer Torah. Mrs. Pinson also placed a bottle of Mashke on the Rebbe's table.

Shortly afterwards, the Rebbe lifted the Sefer Torah in one hand and took his siddur with the other, and headed downstairs to the main shul of 770. **1st Picture**

As the Rebbe reached the Aron Haodesh, Reb Binyomin Gorodetzky did Pesicha and the Rebbe placed the Sefer Torah inside. **Second Picture**

The Rebbe then instructed Reb Shia Pinson to be the Chazzan for Mincha, even though a Chiyuv was already standing at the omud. The Rebbe commented:

Sicha about what had taken place, but this would happen at tomorrow's farbrengen.

At the next day's Shabbos farbrengen, the Rebbe closed the first Sicha with a discussion regarding the Sefer Torah that had arrived and how it had been placed "in the Aron Hakodesh in the Rebbe's shul".

After discussing the inyonim surrounding writing a Sefer Torah and learning Torah at length, the Rebbe concluded with a unique brocho:

"All those whom are involved in Hafotzas Hatorah vehamitzvos and Hafotzas Hamayanos, may the Torah remove all troubling and frightening situations, and they should have Hatzlocha in all their matters. May they be able to spread Torah, Mizvos, Yahadus, and the Mayanos without any disturbance through "V'nofol Pachad Hayehudim Aleihem" (an expression from the Megillah).

When this had ended, the Rebbe took the bottles of Mashke that had been given in before Shabbos and poured a bit from each bottle into his Becher. The Rebbe now took his becher and poured it back into each of the bottles and gave a bottle each to Rabbis Pinson, Lipsker, Gorodetsky and two others. The Rebbe instructed that they give out a little

L'chaim to those at the Farbrengen and then return the bottles to the Rebbe. Once the Rebbe received all five bottles, the Rebbe poured them together into three bottles and handed them to Rabbi Hodakov to keep in the Rebbe's room.

Shortly after this unprecedented sequence of events, all the problems in Tunis faded away and the Pinsons continued their Shlichus for many years to come. ■

(Based on a personal account of Rabbi Nisson Pinson and a diary written at the time)



"זיכער וועט ער קיין פאריבל ניט האבען."

"Surely, he [the Chiyuv] will not be upset."

After Mincha the Rebbe instructed Rabbi Hodakov to tell Rabbi Gorodetzky and Rabbi Lipsker to bring a bottle of Mashke to Mazkirus so that the Rebbe can present them with it by the Farbrengen.

By time Mincha had ended, quite a crowd had amassed because word had gotten out that the Rebbe was going to be saying a Ma'amer. The Rebbe, however, wanted that things be done in a concealed manner so he let it be known that instead of a ma'amer he would say a