

# CHALLENGE

As in the last two editions of the Chassidisher Derher, we present the following story about the Ohel. But first, some introductory words:

In a famous sicha said at the farbrengen of Yud Shevat, 5714, the Rebbe explains the concept of davening at the Ohel of the Nossi Hador and the great impact it has in bringing our requests to fruition. The Rebbe concludes:

"...ומובן שתפלה במקום כזה יש בה סגולה נוספת - שיתקיימו כל הבקשות שבתפלה בכל המצטרך לו... ובפרט בנוגע לקיום השליחות שנשיא דורנו מסר לכאו"א מאתנו..."

Those who daven at the Ohel are helped with fulfillment of all their requests, especially with regards to the Shlichus that the Rebbe has given us...

In this spirit we present the following story related by Rabbi Levi Shmotkin, Shliach in Manhattan:

My wife and I moved on Shlichus to Mid-town Manhattan in 5769, about two weeks before Purim. Our primary task was to serve the many Jewish young professionals living and working in the area. Our first event after we arrived was a Purim party in cooperation with a few campus Shluchim in the area which turned out to be a tremendous success. The next obvious step was a public Pesach Seder.

Immediately after Purim, like any Shliach, we hired a designer to create a flyer and sent it to our small list of the approximately one hundred people that we knew at the time. We expected to receive about fifty positive responses and we waited for the reservations to start coming in. A few days went by but we received no responses. I emailed many of

the people we knew, texted and called some others, but everyone said they already have where to spend the Seder.

This didn't deter me in the slightest and I was still very determined on making a Seder, especially considering the fact that I spent most of my years as a Bochur running public Sedorim and I couldn't imagine this year, my first year actually on Shlichus, to be any different.

While planning for Pesach, we knew that it would be challenging as my wife was due with our first child two weeks before Yom Tov. To top it all off, my wife's family was coming in from Australia for the birth of their first grandchild and due to logistical issues, would be spending Pesach in Crown Heights.

Our child was born three weeks before Pesach *ka"h*.

Pesach was drawing closer and we still had not received a single reservation from anyone. Nevertheless I stubbornly insisted on making a Seder as I felt that as Shluchim it was our utmost duty. On the other hand my wife had just given birth and it was going to be a challenge to put it all together considering that it was our first time making Pesach there.

About a week before Pesach I was having a phone conversation with a fellow Shliach and good friend of mine. Naturally, we began discussing the upcoming Sedorim we were both planning and he told me that he was expecting a crowd of about 150 people or more. He then asked how many people we were expecting. After a long pause I told him that we still didn't have anyone signed up for our Seder...



I also told him that my wife had just given birth and that her entire family had come in from Australia. My friend told me that I had to be completely crazy to go ahead with such a thing. He also explained to me that if on my Shlichus there's no real need for a Seder, then I was not obligated whatsoever to make one. In truth, after hearing him talk I began to have my first doubts. I had simply never considered the possibility of not making a Seder until that moment.

I consulted with a few others who all said just about the same thing. One added that if there were other Seders in the area where I would be able to direct people to in case any last minute reservations showed up, then it would be unnecessary for me to make my own Seder.

It was late at night and I decided that early the next morning I would go to the Ohel and ask the Rebbe what I should do. The next morning I drove from Manhattan to the Ohel and wrote a letter including all the details of my situation. I wrote who I had spoken to and what each one had said and finished by asking the Rebbe what I should do in my present situation. I went in to the Ohel and after reciting a few Kapitlach Tehillim, I left my letter by the Ohel and exited.

After leaving the Ohel I turned on my phone and barely two minutes passed when I received a call: "Hi Rabbi! I would like to make two reservations for the Seder." A couple of minutes later, I received another call "Hi Rabbi, I'd like to make a reservation for the Seder", and sure enough the reservations continued. The Rebbe had clearly answered me.

We ended up having thirty five people by our first Seder.



RABBI LEVI SHMOTKIN

## די וואס האבן זוכה געווען...

...וואס דאס איז דאך אלץ ווי עס שטייט אין שו"ע, און דערנאך בביאור יותר אין דעם חסידיש'ן שו"ע, וואס דאס איז דאך מאמרי ושיחות רבותינו נשיאינו, אין די טיילן וועלכע גיבען ארויס די הוראות בנוגע לפועל - "טאפאר-אד-פלאחו".

דערנאך זאגט מען יעדער איד'ן, עאכו"כ די וואס האב'ן זוכה געווען צו זיין אויפ'ן ציון פון נשיא דורנו, און לערנען זיינע מאמרים "ונלכה באורחותיו"; אז זיי האב'ן אויף זיך אויך דער ענין פון "לפנים משורת הדין" ביז אין אן אופן פון "ועשית הישר והטוב".

(מהתוועדות א' דר"ח מר-חשון תשמ"ו)