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The World Aglow

Yud Alef Nissan is the birthday of the Rebbe, a day of unbelievable joy.

In a sicha said on Shabbos Yud Bais Tammuz 5722, the birthday of the Friediker Rebbe, the Rebbe addresses a fundamental question about birthdays.

Seemingly, the essence of a person is his neshomo, and the neshomo exists before birth. So what is the significance of a birthday?

The Rebbe explains that when the neshomo is born, it starts its avoda in the world. On Yud Alef Nissan we celebrate a world changing event—the day the Rebbe’s glow entered the world.

Why is a Birthday a joyous occasion?

When a person is born he begins his service of Hashem to purify the world and make it a dirah betachtonim. Even though the potential to do this avoda comes from the neshomo—and the neshomo exists before birth—a person begins his actual avodah only when he is born.

Regarding Moshe Rabeinu, the Torah says, “And she [Yocheved, his mother] saw that he was good.” Rashi explains that “the house was filled with light when he was born.”

But Moshe’s neshomo was in the house before he was born, albeit in his mother’s womb. So why does Rashi say that the house was filled with light only after he was born? Because, before Moshe was born, the house—and in a broader sense, the world—was dark; he was yet to impact the world. Only when he was born was “the house filled with light.”

This idea extends itself further. Before birth, while the neshomo is in the mother’s womb, a malach teaches it the entire

torah, and thus the neshomo reaches the deepest levels of limmud hatorah, and yet, only when the neshomo is finally born does it begin it’s avoda in the world.

Similarly, on Yud Beis Tammuz, when the [Friediker] Rebbe was born, that is when he began his avoda of giving koach to all Yidden—and especially to his chasidim and mekusharim—to accomplish their avoda of making a derah bitachtonim, to make the “house filled with light.”

This is the reason that the Rebbe’s

birth was such a monumental event. And, as we read in the megillah, “הימים האלה נזכרים ונעשים—these days are remembered and celebrated” every year. Every year the Rebbe’s birthday is an occasion for immense joy and celebration, not only for those who had the zechus to learn the Rebbe’s Torah, but for every single yid, because this is the day that the Rebbe began lighting up the world. ■

(Sichos Kodesh 5722)

מובן, שבבוא כ”ף מרחשון מידי שנה בשנה, נעשה עילוי והוספה באופן של התגברות בכל עניניו של בעל יום ההולדת (גם לאחרי ההסתלקות, ואדרבה, ביתר שאת וביתר עוז). וע”י העילוי וההוספה אצל נשיא ישראל, נעשה עילוי והוספה אצל כל ישראל (“הנשיא הוא הכל”) – החל מתלמידיו ותלמידי תלמידיו, שהולכים “בדרך ישרה אשר הורנו מדרכיו ונלכה באורחותיו נס”ו, ועל ידם – אצל כל ישראל.

ולכן, בעמדנו ביום סגולה זה, ראוי להתבונן בעניניו של בעל יום ההולדת, על מנת לקבל החלטות טובות להוסיף ולהתחזק בהליכה בדרכיו ואורחותיו במשך כל השנה כולה.

(כ”ף חשוון תשמ”ז)