

## THE PRIVILEGE OF BEING A SHLIACH

In the early years of the nesius, the Rebbe wanted to send a young couple on shlichus to a distant overseas country. The concerned father of the kallah wrote to the Rebbe, complaining of the difficulties involved for his daughter and himself. The Rebbe here responds, explaining that in addition to having the tremendous zchus of going on mesiras nefesh to fulfill the Rebbe's shlichus, they will also enjoy complete success, physically and spiritually.

This letter was originally written in Lashon Kodesh, and is printed in Igros Kodesh Chelek Daled, Igros 804.

BH, 22 Marcheshvan 5711

Shalom U'Bracha:

In response to your letter from 14 cheshvan: I was a bit surprised, for when your daughter was here and we discussed this matter at length, she promised to write to you and your wife regarding the nature of our conversation, and considering the subject of our discussion the content of your letter is not so appropriate.

The facts are: (1) In general I refrain from giving orders, except for in exceptional situations; only when I am asked for advice, do I express my opinion. And that is what happened here, already during the summer your future son in law spoke with me, and I explained to him my view on how he can spend his life in the most suitable way, physically and spiritually. And this is the very same proposal – not order – which I proposed to you and your daughter.

(2) My proposal is for them not to live in Brooklyn, New York, or anywhere in the United States, rather in a place where he and your daughter can fully utilize their talents. As of now I have two or three places that I hope will meet this goal.

(3) When I spoke with your future son in law, as well as with

your daughter, I right away pointed out to them that even if there were to be difficulties, or even – as you write in your letter – an element of recklessness, and even if it would entail self-sacrifice – from who can we expect such things if even a tomim the son of a tomim and a temima the daughter of temimim, aren't prepared for it? That is not the case here however because...

(4) Success has shined on your future son in law and daughter, and this proposal is, in my opinion, good for them spiritually, and not less physically. My reason for this is – experience has shown what future we can hope to see for them, were they to settle in the United States or in . . . where you live. I would prefer not to dwell on this, for you certainly see how it turned out in the end for those who settled where you are, and during the few weeks that you spent in Brooklyn, I'm sure you noticed what became of those – people similar to your future son in law and daughter – who decided to live in Brooklyn or New York. Conversely, were my proposal to be actualized, and they will travel to one of the above places, we can expect that the Rebbe's brocho will accompany them on their path in life, and within a short time they will be able to settle comfortably, he – as a leader of a community, and I mean specifically a leader, and not a rabbi, for

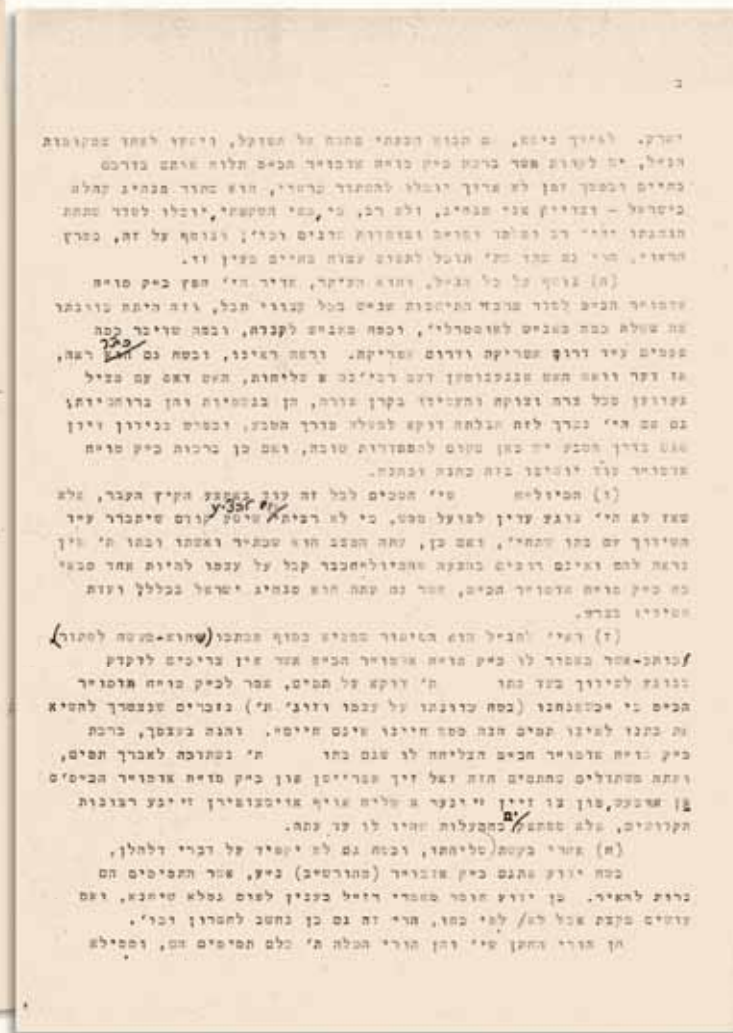
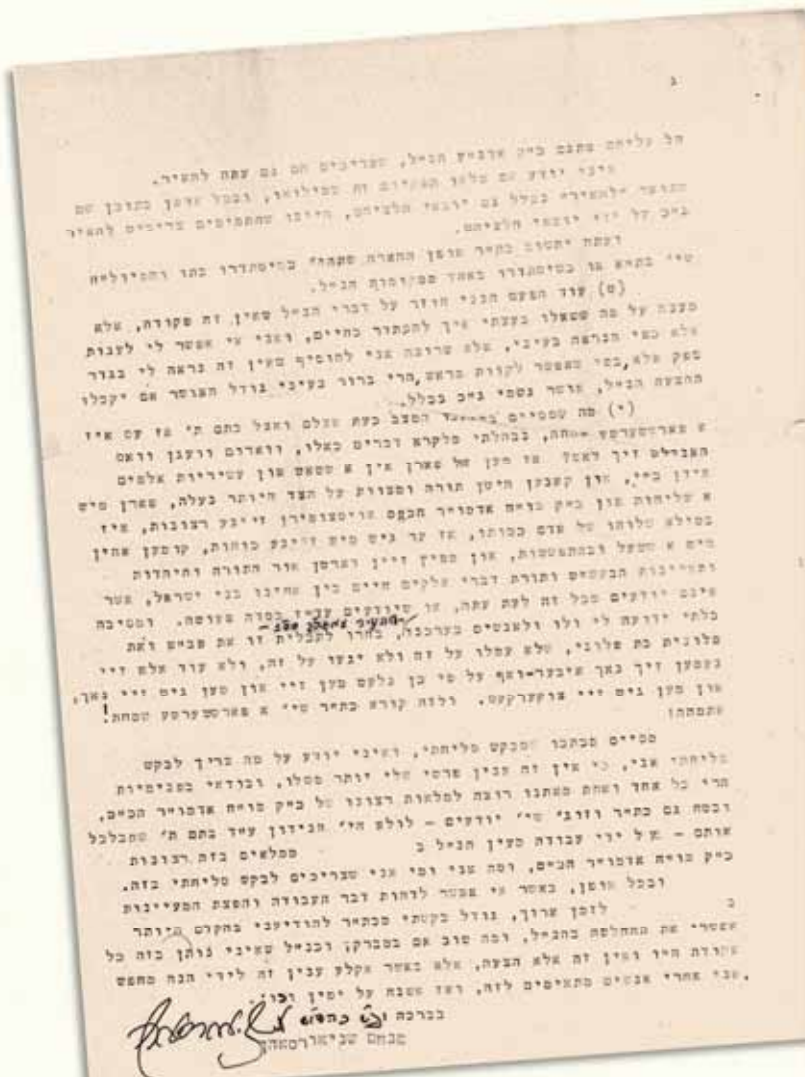
# אגרות קודש

I hope that under his leadership we can arrange a rabbi, teacher, shochet, and various institutions; additionally, with the proper motivation, your daughter as well can find her place in such a lifestyle.

(5) In addition to all the above, and most importantly: my father in law the Rebbe strongly desired to arrange communities of ana"sh all over the world, with this intention he sent a number of ana"sh to Australia, a few ana"sh to Canada, and spoke numerous times about South America and South Africa. And we have seen, and surely you have seen as well, that those which took upon themselves the Rebbe's shlichus, it has protected them from all troubles and distress, and place them in a 'beam of light' physically and spiritually, even if this entailed success from above nature... certainly in this situation, where even naturally there can be a good arrangement, the Rebbe's brochos will only add to the success.

(6) Your future son in law already agreed to this during the summer, it wasn't practically relevant at that time however, as I didn't want him to leave before he finalized the shidduch with your daughter. Therefore, what is happening here is that you, your wife and your daughter don't agree with and are opposed to the proposal which your future son in law has already accepted - to be a representative of the Rebbe who continues to lead Klal Yisroel in general and especially the Chassidim.

(7) A proof for this is the story you bring at the end of your letter (which only contradicts your point). You write that when the Rebbe told you that there is no need to look specifically for a tomim for your older daughter, you told the Rebbe that "when we (you and your wife) think about our daughter marrying someone who is not a tomim, our life is not livable". Now ask yourself, the Rebbe's brocho was fulfilled to such an extent, that you found a tomim even for your *younger* daughter, and now





you want this tomim to tear himself away from the Rebbe's work, from being his shliach to carry out his holy will, and we should be satisfied with whatever he has done until now?!

(8) With all due respect, and surely you won't take offence with what I will say; you are certainly aware of the saying of the Rebbe Rashab, that the temimim are neiros lehoir [illuminating lights], it is also known the saying of chaza"l "according to the camel is the load", and if we accomplish a little but not as much as we could have, this itself is a shortcoming etc.

The parents of the chosson and the parents of the kallah are all temimim, and as such are included in the saying of the Rebbe Rashab, that they must now too, continue to illuminate.

I don't know if they have fully fulfilled this duty, but at any rate the description 'illuminating' includes also their children, meaning that temimim must illuminate also through their children.

Now imagine what kind of illuminating will be if your daughter and future son

in law live with you in . . or in any of the other places mentioned.

(9) Again I repeat that this is not an order, rather a reply to their asking me where to live, and I can only answer as I see fit. I want to add however, that I don't see this only as a possibility; I see clearly the great fortune they will have if they accept this proposal, including material fortune.

(10) You conclude your letter that the feeling by your family is that it is a farshterter simcha [a disturbed simcha]. I was shocked to read such words, because what are we dealing with? They will travel to a city with tens of thousands of Yidden may they increase, they will be able to observe Torah and mitzvos in the finest possible way, they will be shluchim of the Rebbe to carry out his will and since shluchos shel odom kemoso [a person's shliach is like himself] the Rebbe gives them his kochos to come there with a position and broadly, to spread there the light of Torah, Yiddishkeit, the wellsprings of the Baal Shem Tov and Chassidus among our Jewish brethren who as of yet don't know about them, or if they do know it is only a little. And for reasons unbeknownst to me, you, or anyone of our stature (see igeres hakodesh, the end of siman 7), for this purpose was chosen so-and-so and his wife – who didn't work for it and didn't put any effort into it, and they only that – they are opposed to it, but still they are given more and more, and they are given candies.. and this you call 'a disturbed simcha'?! Shocking!

You conclude your letter by asking for my forgiveness. I don't know why you must ask my forgiveness, it is not my personal matter any more than it is yours, for certainly deep down each one of us wants to fulfill the Rebbe's desire, and surely you and your wife can understand (if not for your daughter's involvement confusing you) that through the above work, your daughter is fulfilling the desire of the Rebbe, and who am I that you should need to ask for my forgiveness.

At any rate, since the work in ... cannot be delayed much longer, please inform me of your decision as soon as possible, preferably through telegram. And again, I am not giving any orders and this is only a suggestion, and seeing as this issue was directed toward me, I am looking for people fitting for it, so I turned to the right...

With Blessing, ■

THE ORIGINAL LETTER WITH THE REBBE'S HAGOHOS, PRINTED HERE IN PIRSUM RISHON.

