

“KLAL YISROEL IS NOT ALONE”

This letter, written in 1949 to the renowned Chossid Reb Shlomo Chaim Kesselman, implores him not to forget the primary focus and obligation of all Chassidim wherever they are: bringing Yidden closer to the Rebbe. The Rebbe explains the importance of this, and offers a simple way of going about doing it. Originally written in Lashon Kodesh, this letter has been freely translated into English for the benefit of our readership.

B”H, 15 Shvat, 5709
Shalom U’bracha:

I am writing now not to any specific person, for who am I to determine who is responsible for this issue? My words are directed to all the members of your community, who are all undoubtedly capable of fulfilling their main mission of spreading the wellsprings of the Baal Shem Tov and the Alter Rebbe to all the people of France. The only spring from which flow the waters of the Baal Shem Tov and the Alter Rebbe is the Rebbe, my father-in-law shlit”a. By connecting to this spring – a connection in both body (through money that one could have otherwise used for his personal needs) and soul -- ordinary water becomes ‘mayim chayim’ [suitable for a mikvah]. This is a clear law according to the Torah, which governs nature, literally and in every aspect.

There is a young man, a refugee, he can’t daven ba’avoda, nor is he a Maskil or Oved, he doesn’t have a beard, etc. etc. and he never learned in any yeshiva, let alone Tomchei Temimim. He was forced to flee to a faraway country, distant both physically and in matters of Yiddishkeit. After he was there for just a short time, letters from both men and women began arriving for the Rebbe. For example: a businesswoman received a few offers to

rent a store and an apartment in different parts of the city, and she wrote to the Rebbe asking him what she should do. This woman never saw the Rebbe; she knows that the Rebbe never visited her city or even her country. She is not a chossid nor does she seem to be from a family of Chassidim. Yet, upon hearing the above-mentioned young man’s genuine and heartfelt words: “There is a Rebbe for the Jewish People, and he is not confined to the laws of nature. Anyone who desires success – whether in business matters, household affairs, etc. -- should not lift his hands to do anything, without asking the Rebbe’s advice.” Seeing the young man’s honesty – for words of truth are recognizable - she requested to write to the Rebbe about the above mentioned issue. As a direct result of this, she is now a supporter of the Rebbe, she is coming closer to Yiddiskeit, and eventually she will surely keep Kashrus and Taharas Hamishpocho. All this is due to the efforts of one young simple man, who views what he is doing not as mesiras nefesh, but as a plainly obvious responsibility.

Now I ask you: it is clear to you based on everything that you have seen, that the Rebbe’s words and brochos are true; your nefesh habehamis even agrees. This is not merely theoretical or abstract knowledge; rather, your experience, and the experience

תמים ביחידות



"Tomim BiYechidus" is dedicated to documenting the experience of bochurim who had the zchus of having a personal Yechidus with the Rebbe.

The following Yechidus was told over by R' Shlome Zarchi.

Rabbi Leibel Kaplan A"H, the Shliach Roshi to Tzfas, Eretz Yisroel, once went into Yechidus to ask the Rebbe's advice about a particular habit of his.

The year was around 5722, and the younger bochurim learnt in Yeshiva by Bedford and Dean. Supper was around 7:30 and Seder Chassidus was taught by R' Yoel Kahn until 9:00pm. By the time the bochurim would return home to Crown Heights proper, it was usually quite late, almost 10:00pm.

R' Leibel told the Rebbe that although at the time when he returned home he was still satisfied with the supper he had eaten in Bedford and Dean, he still found it difficult 'tzu zich ainhalten' from checking the refrigerator and pot to see what his mother had made for supper that night. True he wouldn't eat, yet he still wanted to see what he had missed...

The Rebbe responded: 'If you'll think to yourself that in coming years you will be a Rov, a Manhig, of an entire city, then does this 'past zich'? This surely will help you to give up this habit...'

of others, has shown that when one listened to the Rebbe it was good, and when one didn't listen, he had it bad. Therefore, just as you wouldn't hesitate to recommend a good doctor to anyone who needs it, so too, when you see someone who is confused or confronting a major life decision, you should tell him: the Jewish people have not been forsaken, G-d forbid; there is someone you can ask! Furthermore, you shouldn't wait until your acquaintance approaches you to ask about the Rebbe; he probably doesn't even know what a Rebbe is! Rather, you should explain to him that he shouldn't rely on his own understanding, nor should he rely on the shadchan or the doctor or the broker. There is no guarantee if any of those approaches will work, but there is a clear and definite way to resolve his questions [i.e. by asking the Rebbe]. And chazal say: "words that come from the heart, enter the heart."

It is clear, that someone who believes with complete faith – a faith which directs his entire being – that the outlook and brachos of a certain individual [i.e. the Rebbe] governs everything, and knows that his friend must make an important decision in any area in life, even a life threatening issue; out of basic decency, ahavas yisroel, pikuach nefesh, etc. if there is even the slightest chance that that his friend will listen to him, he would chase after him and tell him: "have mercy on yourself, your family, and all that is yours! Don't rely on your own judgement! Learn Chassidus, connect with the Rebbe, do as he says, and then you will succeed!"

The Alter Rebbe's promise is well known: "any good thing Chassidim do will be successful."

You encounter hundreds, if not thousands, of Yidden in Paris, and speak will them about all kinds of topics. How many of these thousands have asked the Rebbe about an operation or a shidduch, or requested a brocho for Rosh Hashono and so forth? If you would only tell them who the Lubavitcher Rebbe is – just tell them, even without explaining it -- and if the next time you meet him you tell him a sicha of the Rebbe, and the next time you tell him some of the Rebbe's directives, then many people, their children, and their children's children for all eternity, would be connected to the tree of life, add light in their homes, and happily support the Rebbe and all his mosdos. נעשים אנשי משה...

With Blessing,

The Rebbe's Signature ■

(Igros Kodesh, vol. 3 p. 52)