



# דער רבי וועט געפינען א וועג...

לזכות  
שיינא ליבא בת אסתר  
שתחיל

## Go On Shlichus!

AS TOLD BY RABBI BEREL KESSELMAN (CONCORD, CA)

It was in the summer of 5779\*, a full year after we had been granted the mandate to become shlichim and establish Chabad of Concord, and we were still in limbo. There were certain technical issues that kept stopping us from making the move and there seemed to be no end in sight.

I went to the Ohel to ask the Rebbe for a *bracha* that we succeed in moving out to our *makom hashlichus* as soon as possible and decided to buy envelopes to send out a fundraising mailer for our new shlichus even though we were not yet at that point in the natural course of things.

On the way back to Crown Heights I received a WhatsApp message from my friend Sruly Duchman. “Berel,

I found a *kuntres* from the Rebbe in my house which has your name written in it. Are you missing your *kuntres*?”

He sent me a photo of the handwriting on the first page which I immediately recognized as my mother’s handwriting and after confirming with my parents that the *kuntres* was indeed mine, I made arrangements to retrieve it from the Duchman home that evening.

We were all puzzled how it ended up in their home, but I was thrilled to be reunited with the *kuntres* I had received from the Rebbe on Chof-Ches Sivan 5751\*. When I came home, I opened up the *kuntres*, started learning it and immediately noticed that the main theme of the *sichos* in the *kuntres* are about the mission of *הפצת המעיינות חוצה*

which took on a greater urgency and *shiturem* when the Rebbe and Rebbetzin arrived in America on Chof-Ches Sivan 5701\*—the essence of *avodas hashlichus!*

My wife and I were overwhelmed with excitement to receive such a clear sign and *bracha* from the Rebbe that we would succeed in moving out to our shlichus. This was the first time I had experienced receiving such a direct answer from the Rebbe.

We decided to go to the Ohel to thank the Rebbe for the answer and for the *bracha*. We also decided on a date that we would move out to Concord, California—Yud-Gimmel Av.

At the same time we discussed the different issues we needed to address in connection with our move. Our daughter was already four-years-old and learning in Beis Rivka. She was fluent in Alef-Beis and accustomed to the Chassidische atmosphere, and we were concerned that she transition easily to the spiritual realities of Northern California. Rabbi Yisroel Resnick, a shliach in Pleasanton, which is half an hour away from Concord, had opened a *cheder* for area-shluchim and we intended to reach out to him to find out more about the school, if there was a class for our daughter and perhaps a teaching opportunity for my wife.

During the course of my fundraising efforts, my largest donation came from a very generous *yungerman* who is involved in many *tzedakos* and the Rebbe's *mosdos*, Rabbi Shloime Greenwald. Although I had mentioned his name and his donation by the Ohel on previous occasions, I had never done so using his full name and his mother's name. Since I was planning on notifying the Rebbe the date of our move, I wished to mention Shloime properly, so I texted him asking for his information.

As I left the Ohel, after reading my *tzetel* with all the above mentioned details, and started walking towards the pathway to the Beis Chabad, I was shocked to see Rabbi Resnick walking straight towards me on his way into the Ohel!

Rabbi Resnick is not often in New York and seeing him immediately after asking the Rebbe for a *bracha* for my daughter's easy transition, which I had associated with Rabbi Resnick's *cheder*, was a clear sign to me of the Rebbe's *bracha*.

He was happy to see me and we had a brief discussion which cleared up many of our questions.

Uplifted and inspired by all the encouragement I was recently experiencing in preparing to move out on shlichus, and since I had mentioned him by the Rebbe, I decided to share these two episodes with Shloime, with no intention at all of asking him for any more money.



He was very excited to hear my story and an hour later he called me and asked how much more money I needed to move. Hearing that I was short between \$30,000 and \$50,000 he said, "Over the next year I will give you \$10,000. Text me on the first of the secular month and I will make a payment."

The first time I texted him and he made the first payment was July 1, which occurred that year on Chof-Ches Sivan!

That summer we moved out on shlichus greatly inspired and motivated by the clear *brachos* we had received from the Rebbe. I noticed that both times we merited to experience the Rebbe's *brachos* in a revealed way was after we committed to doing something which transcended our rational calculations. The first time, we decided to send out a mailer even though our path to moving was far from clear and I was reunited with my *kuntres*. The second time was after we committed to moving on Yud-Gimmel Av, despite the fact that we were far behind in our fundraising, and our largest pledge to date came as a result. **T**



## YOUR STORY

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