

Journey of the Fish לזכות הרה״ת ר' **משה** וזוגתו מרת **שרה חנה** ו**משפחתם** שיחיו גורארי' טאמס ריווער, ניו ג'רסי

"We have arrived at the village. That is the home we need to go to."

It was an unexpected early morning journey for the few Chassidim of the Alter Rebbe who were woken to travel with their Rebbe. Not sure of what to expect, they followed the Alter Rebbe into the home of a local *mashke*-vendor whose clientele was the local peasants.

"Please show us to a room in which we can

daven," asked the Alter Rebbe.

"I don't have any available," he replied, "But following the local law, I have a room designated for the alcohol barrels which you can use."

As the owner of the home began removing the barrels from the room in preparation for davening, the Alter Rebbe asked him to prepare a meal of fish for them to eat.

"With my deepest regrets, I can't do this for you. We don't live near the river and there are no fish to be bought here," he explained.

While the Alter Rebbe and his Chassidim davened Shacharis, there was a knock on the door, which the owner of the home quickly responded to.

Shocked, he saw a gentile man holding a pail of water with a large fish inside. "Would you like to purchase this," he said pointing at his lucky catch. Without any hesitation at all, the owner paid for the fish and quickly informed the Alter Rebbe that a fish had been found.

The Alter Rebbe insisted on being present in the kitchen throughout the entire time the fish was being prepared and cooked. He then turned to the surprised Chassidim and explained, "Do you remember so-and-so who recently passed away? His soul was reincarnated in a fish and now when you eat it he will receive the elevation he needs." **①**