



6 CHESHVAN, 5746

JEM 271214

<p>ע"י בנם ר' יקותיאל יהודה וזוגתו מרת פעסל לאה ומשפחתם שיחיו רוהר</p>	<p>טור 'לעבן מיטן רבי'ן' הוקדש לזכרון ולעילוי נשמת ר' שמואל ב"ר יהושע אליהו ז"ל ואשתו מרת שרה ע"ה בת ר' יקותיאל ומרת לאה הי"ד ת'נ'צ'ב'ה'</p>
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# Where Are The Bochorim?

TEVES 5746\*



In connection with the Yom Tov of Hei Teves this month, we present a *yoman* of the occurrences at 770 during Teves 5746\*, one year before Didan Notzach.

The weeks of Kislev and the beginning of Teves 5746\* were times of great worry and stress for Chassidim across the globe as the court case about the *sefarim* commenced. For weeks on end, the Rebbe went to the Ohel (fasting and standing in

the cold for hours) almost every single day—the Rebbe was evidently in great distress from the *matzav*.

Every day, throngs of *bochorim* flooded the courtroom, eagerly awaiting what would happen next.

Chanukah that year was filled with surprises as the Rebbe announced a number of new initiatives and showed much interest in the activities of *Mivtza*

Chanukah taking place. On Shabbos, 2 Teves, the Rebbe farbrenge. During the farbrengen the Rebbe announced that he would be farbrenging again that night (Motzei Shabbos), and after coming back from the Ohel on Sunday, the Rebbe farbrenge again—the third time in two days!

At these farbrengens, the Rebbe spoke about a *kitrug* against the spreading of Chassidus and strongly encouraged intensified joy as a way to counter what was going on.<sup>1</sup>

The following descriptions are based on the *yomanim* of Hirshel Raskin, Motti Misholovin, Meir Yechiel Hershkowitz and Moshe Sassonkin; all *bochurim* in 770 at the time. Due to the length of these diaries, we have only included selected snippets.

#### MONDAY–THURSDAY, 4–7 TEVES

The Rebbe visited the Ohel every single day this week, sometimes returning two hours or more after *shkia*. On Thursday, when the Rebbe received an *aliya* at *krias haTorah*, his voice sounded weak.

Being that the court case is ongoing and Rabbi Yehuda Krinsky needs to attend, Rabbi Binyomin Klein has been driving the Rebbe to the Ohel these

days instead. Rabbi Krinsky drives the Rebbe home in the evening, and sometimes, the Rebbe spends up to 45 minutes in the car hearing updates on the development of the case.

#### FRIDAY, 8 TEVES

The court is now taking a three-week recess from the case until 28 Teves, upon which they will resume the proceedings. Several testimonies that were given in writing will be read out loud for the court to hear, after which they will make their summaries. We are hoping that *b'ezras Hashem* by Yud Shevat, the judge will have given his verdict that will clearly proclaim *Didan Notzach*—victory is ours.

(Since photography in the courtroom is not allowed, an artist drew a sketch depicting the proceedings. It was published in the *Algemeiner Journal*.)

#### SHABBOS PARSHAS VAYIGASH, 9 TEVES

There was a surprise farbrengen this Shabbos; the last time a farbrengen was held on Shabbos Vayigash was 10 years ago, so no one expected it.

In the first *sicha*, the Rebbe explained that there is no need to provide a justification as to why we



are farbrenging today for Shabbos itself is already enough. Nevertheless, being that everything needs to come in *maaseh bepoel*, the reason for the farbrengen is to encourage and to reiterate what was spoken in the previous farbrengens; about sending in a report and pictures from the recent Chanukah *peulos*. The Rebbe wanted these reports, along with the pictures, to be submitted before Asara B'Teves, and those who still have not done so should do so now, and in an increased measure.

Later on in the farbrengen, in the Rambam *sicha*, the Rebbe discussed how Yaakov Avinu was first in *galus* by Lavan, and now in Parshas Vayigash, after he was finally able to live in peace and comfort, the *Aibershter* tells him to go down to Mitzrayim—back into *galus*. Here, the Rebbe began to speak with great pain, how it has already been 1,900 years that we are in *galus*, the *Shechina* is in *galus*, and that there are those who do not want Moshiach to come; “Should the *Aibershter* destroy his world because of fools...?!” The Rebbe cried as he quoted these words.

After the fifth *sicha*, the Rebbe announced that those who gave in bottles of *mashke* to *mazkirus* before Shabbos should come up (as was the *seder* at every Shabbos farbrengen).

The Rebbe gave a bottle of *mashke* to Rabbi Menachem Gerlitzky for a *Siyum Harambam* and for the opening of a new institution for women's learning (*Kolel Chochmas Nashim*), and Rabbi Gerlitzky made an announcement about the above details.

The Rebbe gave a bottle to Rabbi Shlomo Cunin and instructed him to make his announcement.

He announced that in the coming week a regional *Kinus Hashluchim* for the state of California will take place in S. Diego, and that all of the Rebbe's *brachos* should be fulfilled. The Rebbe asked him when it will take place, and he announced that it will be on Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday. The Rebbe asked him where it would take place. “In the *Beis Chabad*,” he replied. “There is only one *Beis Chabad* in S. Diego?” the Rebbe asked. He announced that it will take place in the school there. The Rebbe asked him, “Does the *Beis Chabad* have a street name?” Rabbi Cunin started to announce the name of the street but he became overwhelmed and broke out in a smile. The whole crowd laughed along and the Rebbe smiled too. Suddenly, the Rebbe began singing the *hakafos niggun* with tremendous *simcha*. The entire 770 shook as the

Rebbe encouraged the singing strongly with his hand and the high part of the *niggun* was repeated 15 times!

It was very difficult to hear the Rebbe during the farbrengen. Almost every day over the past three weeks, the Rebbe has been going to the Ohel and spending hours there in the freezing winter weather. The Rebbe's voice was very weak and those who were standing further away could barely hear the words.

#### SUNDAY—TUESDAY, 10—12 TEVES

On Sunday, Asara B'Teves, the Rebbe came down to Mincha holding a *sefer Hisvaaduyos B'Lahak* (the Rebbe's *sichos* from 5745 vol. 2). Following Mincha,



the Rebbe said a *sicha* and distributed dollars for tzedakah through the *tankistin*.

On Monday and Tuesday the Rebbe went to the Ohel. On Monday, the Rebbe left for the Ohel later than usual, and by Mincha and Maariv he was coughing a lot.

### ENOUGH!

... Monday and Tuesday the Rebbe went to the Ohel; the *matzav* does not look good... Who knows how much longer this will continue? Needless to say, these are not regular times and Hashem should have mercy on us that very soon there will be clarity in all of this, the Rebbe will be able to have peace; at least from such matters and such *agmas nefesh* like this... Hashem should say "Enough!" to these

*tzaros*. Obviously, *anash* are not indifferent to what is going on, and everyone is doing what he can with his *tefilla* and with his *hosafa* in tzedakah...

*(From a letter written by  
Hatomim Moshe Sassonkin)*

### WEDNESDAY, 13 TEVES

As the Rebbe was distributing coins for tzedakah this morning, an elderly man wished the Rebbe that he should be healthy. The Rebbe answered him, "Amen, *gam atem*," and gave him a coin.

The Rebbe went to the Ohel today.

Tonight after Maariv, a gathering was held in *zal* for the *bochurim* with the participation of the *hanhalah*. Reb Dovid Raskin spoke and encouraged the *bochurim* to learn with more diligence,



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especially now that this is a time of “battle.” He mentioned that Rabbi Hodakov asked the *hanhalah* today why there are so few *bochurim* in *zal* during *seder*. From this, Reb Dovid concluded, it is clear that the Rebbe cares about what is going on.

As a result of the *asifa*, the *bochurim* decided to implement a few practical ideas in order to bring *nachas ruach* to the Rebbe during these extremely stressful and difficult times. To name a few: 1. To be more diligent about davening with a *minyan*. 2. To come to *seder Chassidus* in the morning five minutes earlier. 3. Not to stand in the hallway when the Rebbe arrives at and leaves 770 during *seder* of *yeshiva* and times of *tefilos*. 4. To divide all the printed *sefarim* of Kehos amongst all *anash* and *temimim* around the world and to finish the entire undertaking by Yud Shevat.

Signs went up in 770 and *anash* around the world were notified and informed about the above project.

#### THURSDAY, 14 TEVES

The Rebbe went to the Ohel today, and after he entered the car—in an unusual fashion—he motioned very strongly towards the *bochurim* to encourage the singing.

Before the Rebbe entered the car, he gave coins for *tzedakah* to a group of children from camp (winter camp). The Rebbe’s face was beaming as he distributed the coins to the children.

The Rebbe returned from the Ohel at 6:45 p.m., about two hours after *shkia*.

A Tanya was printed today in the building of the Kolel (*Beis Machane Yisrael—Oholei Yosef Yitzchok*).

Also, today all of *anash* were contacted in the name of Agudas Chasidei Chabad with instructions to make *farbrengens* this coming Shabbos (Parshas Vayechi), or the days around it, in light of the current *matzav*.

#### SHABBOS PARSHAS VAYECHI, 15–16 TEVES

On Friday night after *seudas Shabbos*, a large *farbrengen* took place in the upstairs *zal* with the participation of all the *mashpi'im*.

During the Shabbos *farbrengen* the next day, the Rebbe discussed the Rashi in this week’s *parsha* which speaks about *מת לא מת*.

Later in the *farbrengen* the Rebbe gave bottles of *mashke* to: Rabbi Meir Steinmetz for a *melave malka* in the Chevras Shas shul; Rabbi Yaakov

Friedman for a *melave malka* for Chadrei Torah Ohr; Rabbi Shammai Ende for the opening of a new *kolel* in Brazil; Rabbi Y.Y. Altein who is traveling to Russia and Rabbi Leibel Kaplan for the Irgun Gag (Chabad’s umbrella organization in Eretz Yisroel).

The Rebbe instructed Rabbi Kaplan to announce that “the umbrella organization of all the *mosdos* in Eretz Yisroel notifies that the *mosdos* are taking on to add in their *peulos* many times over.” After Rabbi Leibel Kaplan made the announcement, he added some *brachos* of his own and the Rebbe said in a loud voice, “*Amen, hatzlacha rabba!*”

#### ACHDUS AMONG CHASSIDIM

Due to the current situation, *anash* and *shluchim* are working harder these days to be more *bachdus*. In one community of *anash* where there had been some conflict for a while—peace was made and things were settled.

Rabbi Shlomo Cunin spoke to Rabbi Hodakov on the phone today and asked him what he can do to help with all the news coming out of 770. As he was on the phone, he heard that the Rebbe picked up the line.

Rabbi Hodakov asked him why he does not send a full report to the Rebbe about activities in the recent initiatives the Rebbe spoke about (establishing new Chabad Houses, establishing Kolelei Tiferes Zekeinim, and Tzivos Hashem).

“Why is there nothing being done for there to be *ahavas achim* among the *shluchim*?” asked Rabbi Hodakov.

This past Thursday (after the above conversation between Rabbi Hodakov and Rabbi Cunin), all the *shluchim* got together on the phone to speak about *ahavas Yisroel*. There were around 60-70 *shluchim* on the call. One of the *hachlatos* that were made is to send a *duch* of certain *peulos* into the Rebbe; this will definitely bring the Rebbe *nachas ruach*.

Also, because of the current *matzav*, a *minyan* of people have recently started to go every day to the Ohel to daven.



CHANUKAH IN BRAZIL, ONE OF THE MANY PICTURES AND DUCHOS THAT ARRIVED FROM AROUND THE WORLD.

At the end of the farbrengen, the Rebbe encouraged the Chassidim to increase in *simcha* (as was discussed in the previous farbrengens), and to make a strong commitment in this area.

#### SUNDAY, 17 TEVES

After about 10 minutes of distributing coins for tzedakah to those who were present, the Rebbe went to the *mikveh*. At around noontime, a police car arrived outside of 770 in order to escort the Rebbe to the Ohel, as usual.

A little after 3:00 p.m., while everyone waited expectantly for the Rebbe to leave to the Ohel, Rabbi Groner suddenly came out and announced that the Rebbe is coming to Mincha; the Rebbe changed his plans and is not going to the Ohel today. This news created a great *simcha*, and the *bochurim* in 770 got together in the evening for a lively farbrengen which lasted till the wee hours of the morning.

There is a rumor that the shluchim wrote to the Rebbe, begging him not to go so often to the Ohel.

#### TUESDAY, 19 TEVES

Today, the Rebbe was informed of the initiative to divide the learning of all of the *sefarim* of Kehos among Chassidim around the world.

Once again, the Rebbe didn't go to the Ohel today. The tremendous and sincere joy that is prevalent amongst the *bochurim* and *anash* now that the Rebbe is going less to the Ohel is indescribable.

#### WEDNESDAY, 20 TEVES

The Rebbe visited the Ohel today.

Rabbi Shammai Ende left today for S. Paulo, Brazil in order to establish a new *kolel* there. Before he left, he received a *hora'a* from the Rebbe that the *kolel* should not bear the official title of Chabad.

Tonight, a farbrengen took place for the *bochurim* together with Reb Dovid Raskin and Reb Sholom Marozov. Reb Dovid announced: **Every single day, mazkirus inquires about what is going on in zal during seder; Why is it empty? Where are the bochurim?** (The inquiries and interest are obviously at the behest of the Rebbe.) They also want to see the lists of *bochurim* at the different *sedarim*, and the main concern is about who is coming on time to *seder*. "What exactly will be the outcome of these inquiries, I do not know... but there should not be any *tainos* later."



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#### FRIDAY, 22 TEVES

The Rebbe was at the Ohel yesterday.

Today in the morning, while distributing coins for tzedakah, the Rebbe stopped near the *pushka* (in the lobby) to listen to *chazaras hashatz* of Shacharis taking place in the *zal*. The Rebbe waited from *birchas kohanim* until the end of *Sim Shalom*.

#### SHABBOS PARSHAS SHEMOS

At the end of the third *sicha* of today's farbrengen, the Rebbe spoke about those who sleep during the farbrengen: When Moshiach comes, they too will be transported to Eretz Yisroel with *ananei shmaya*. When they will wake up from their sleep and wonder where they are, they will be told that they are in Yerushalayim... They will wash *negel vasser* and say *brachos* according to Shulchan Aruch...

Two *bochurim*, Yossi Gorelik and Yehoshua Metzger, who are right now in Jordan, finally gave notification that this week they will be able to start



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printing a Tanya there, and in the meantime they found a Yid who lives there.

#### SUNDAY, 24 TEVES

The Rebbe went to the Ohel today.

N'shei Chabad from all around the world sent letters to the Rebbe informing him of the various *hachlatos* they took on, and asking the Rebbe to guard his health (and to not go to the Ohel so often). The N'shei Chabad of Tzfas wrote to the Rebbe that they will see to it that the entire Tehillim be recited every day at the *kevarim* of the Rashbi, the Rambam and the Arizal.

#### MONDAY, 25 TEVES

Today, something special happened. A non-Jewish man came into the *mazkirus* office holding in his hand an old *sefer*. It was the *sefer Sha'alos u'Teshuvos Maharik*. The man said that he is willing to sell it for more than \$1000. *Mazkirus* sent him to Reb Yitzchak Mishulovin's store since he is a *sefarim* dealer.

Realizing that something was fishy, Reb Yitzchak called Reb Sholom Ber Levine from the library, and, sure enough, after a quick look, Rabbi Levine noticed the Frierdiker Rebbe's handwriting inside... The Frierdiker Rebbe writes that this *sefer* had been

in the possession of the Alter Rebbe! He also found on one of the pages short notes in the Alter Rebbe's own handwriting...

Based on various factors, they determined that this *sefer* is most likely from the *sefarim* that were confiscated from the Friediker Rebbe in Poland. Apparently, this man only recently arrived from Poland, and before he left Poland he received the book from his family as a source of income when he arrived in the US. The man was pacified by a smaller sum of money than he initially demanded, and he went on his way.

This *sefer* caused the Rebbe tremendous *nachas ruach*. The Rebbe took the *sefer* home with him on Tuesday.

#### TUESDAY, 26 TEVES

The Rebbe requested that the printing of the Friediker Rebbe's *maamarim* from the years תרפ"פ-תרפ"ג should be hurried up, and that inquiries should be made over the phone to try to find more *maamarim*. The Rebbe wants it to be printed in time for Yud Shevat.

#### THURSDAY, 28 TEVES

The Rebbe went to the Ohel today.

This afternoon, after a long break the court resumed hearings for several hours. Parts of written testimonies that were already heard were re-read, and there were some examinations regarding a few points. On Chof-Daled Shevat the court case will resume, summaries will be made and only later will the judge give his final verdict.

#### SHABBOS PARSHAS VA'ERA

On Friday night, when the Rebbe walked to the library from 770, the crowd sang "Didan Notzach" and the Rebbe encouraged the singing strongly.

At the farbrengen on Shabbos, the Rebbe spoke about the importance of demanding from Hashem that he take us out of *galus*. The Rebbe ended the *sicha* with the words "Yidden, geit arois fun galus (Yidden, go out of *galus*)!" Then the Rebbe paused, and concluded: "L'chaim, l'chaim v'livracha!" **1**

1. See "Through The Eyes Of Bochorim," Derher Teves 5776, for an extensive overview of these farbrengens and other occurrences at the beginning of Teves 5746.



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