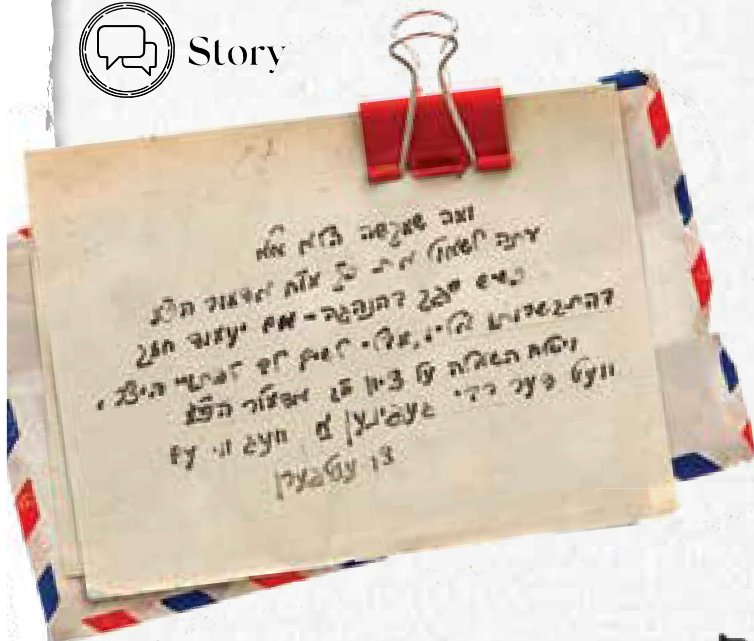




Story



דער רבי וועט געפינען אַ וועג...

Dedicated In memory of

Herb Schulman
Hersh Laib Ben Wolf

By the **Schulman**
and **Goldin** Families

The Letter Arrived On Time

AS TOLD BY RABBI YOSHI GORDON (WOODLAND HILLS, CA)

My father, Rabbi Yehoshua Gordon, served as the Rebbe's shliach in Encino, California, for over 40 years. He merited to build an empire of *Batei Chabad* in the area known as "The Valley" where today there are more than 30 Chabad Houses, staffed by over 80 shluchim serving the tens of thousands of Yidden living here.

In the month of Elul 5758*, my father was experiencing some very serious financial problems. When he traveled to the east coast to visit my grandfather, Rabbi Sholom Ber Gordon, whose health had started deteriorating, his first stop was at the Ohel where he asked the Rebbe for a *bracha*

for success. After spending a few days with his father in Englewood, New Jersey, he decided to go to the Ohel once again before flying back to Los Angeles.

This time at the Ohel he poured out his heart to the Rebbe, expressing the urgency of his situation.

While standing at the Ohel he said: "Rebbe, I know you are with me all the time. But I need you to show me that you are truly with me. Please give me a sign that you are with me."

Before heading to the airport he went to 770 to daven Mincha and as he stood there, Rabbi Leibel Groner tapped

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URGENT TIME SENSITIVE
URGENT
URGENT
URGENT

By the Grace of G-d
22nd of Adar, 5748
Ezer of Makkai
Brooklyn, N.Y.

To all Participants in the Annual
Banquet of Chabad of the Valley
Essex, California

Greeting and Blessings!

I was pleased to be informed of the forthcoming annual event taking place on the 22nd of Adar. I take pleasure in extending congratulations and heartfelt wishes to the worthy honorees, distinguished guests, and all participants in this event. May it be blessed with a full measure of achievement both materially and spiritually, especially as it is taking place in the year of Makkai.

The Mitzvah of Makkai, as ordained in the Torah, is that at the end of every seven years, immediately after the year of Shmittah, when Jews make their pilgrimages to the Beit Hamikdash (Temple), during the Festival of Weeks, all Jews had to be gathered (Makkai) - the men, and the women, and the children even babies, and the king read to them sections from the Torah, selected for and the king read to them sections from the Torah, selected for and their content to stimulate Jews in the observance of Mitzvos and strengthen them in their faith and in Yiddishkeit, and it made a profound impression on them, as if they heard it from G-d himself.

Although the Mitzvah of Makkai, in its concrete and plain form, is associated with the time of the Beit Hamikdash, there is the well known principle that all matters that are connected with the Beit Hamikdash, such as sacrifices and the like, are in their spiritual content relevant at all times. This is why the daily prayers, which have been enacted in the place of the sacrifices, completely in submission to his Creator, and is ready to sacrifice the best of his possessions and his most passionate interests (the "Pek and the Kine") to the will of G-d - and it is acceptable to G-d as a "burnt offering" in the Beit Hamikdash. Indeed, also during the times when Jews had a central Sanctuary and Makkai and actually offered sacrifices there, it was the Jewish heart that he desired most, in accordance with His imperative, request, and command: "Let them make Me a Sanctuary and I will dwell within them" - in their inmost Jewish hearts.

It is also obvious how strongly the Mitzvah of Makkai emphasizes

the Torah-education of our children. It follows that also those who are grown in years but still "children" in Yiddishkeit, all those "who know not," who, for one reason or another, did not get the proper Jewish education, and even those who belong to the category of "one who knows not to ask," namely, those who do not know, and do not feel, that they miss something and should ask and seek help - these also must be assembled to let them hear and learn what Torah is. What a Mitzvah is, in a manner of learning that would imbue them with fear of G-d, and, most importantly, that they should observe and do all the words of this Torah," the Torah from Sinai that shall never be changed - all of the above with such impact, "as if they heard it from G-d himself."

Chabad of the Valley, as Chabad-Lubavitch everywhere else - has, with the help of G-d, and of its dedicated friends, made substantial achievements in helping Jews become even more fully and intimately aware of Torah and Mitzvos in their everyday experience, and is committed to continue this vital activity in a consistently growing measure. I am confident that everyone of you will cooperate still further your active participation in the vital activities and programs to keep the light of Torah shining ever more brightly.

Heaven will surely bless you with Hatzlocha in this endeavor, as well as in all your deeds, both materially and spiritually.

With esteem and blessings,
M. L. Schwartz



THE REBBE'S LETTER ADDRESSED TO THE CHABAD OF
THE VALLEY ANNUAL BANQUET IN 5748. RABBI GORDON
RECEIVED IT IN THE SUMMER OF 5758.

him on the shoulder and said, "Yehoshua, when you finish davening please come to my office for a few minutes."

My father was confused as to what this could be about and as he walked over to Rabbi Groner's office he felt like an elementary school kid that had been called to the principal's office.

As he entered the office, Rabbi Groner opened his desk drawer and pulled out an envelope.

"Yehoshua, this letter is for you."

Bewildered, my father opened the envelope and was shocked to find a letter from the Rebbe dated Elul 5748*, exactly ten years earlier.

Every year, my father would host an annual fundraising dinner for Chabad of the Valley. He would always notify the Rebbe about the dinner and ask for a *bracha* for success, and each year he merited to receive a letter of *bracha* and encouragement from the Rebbe.

During the month of Adar 5748*, right after the Rebbetzin's *histalkus*, the Rebbe was at his home throughout the week. My father did not merit to receive a letter from

the Rebbe in connection with the dinner as he usually did but he figured that it was due to the unusual circumstances and did not feel it was appropriate to ask about it.

Now, exactly ten years later, the Rebbe's letter in connection with the dinner of 5748* was finally delivered to him, barely an hour after standing at the Ohel and begging the Rebbe for a clear sign.

With a rush of emotion he opened the letter and was overwhelmed with what he read.

In the letter, the Rebbe wishes him much success with the upcoming dinner and that although he is going through difficult times, he should know that things will work out.

The letter reached him exactly on time... ①

YOUR STORY

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