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ר' יהודה ע"ה
בן ר' משה יעקב ע"ה
ביסטאן
נלב"ע ר"ח כסלו ה'תשנ"ט
תנ"צ'ב'ה'

נדפס ע"י בנו
הרה"ת השליח ר' יוסף יצחק
וזוגתו מרת ביילא רחל ומשפחתם שיחיו
ביסטאן

When You'll Finish Your Shlichus

*Rabbi Gershon Jacobson was the founder and editor of Der Allgemeiner Journal.
His son, Rabbi Simon Jacobson, shared this story.*

The Rebbe gave my father many *kiruvim*. In 5750*, my father was ill, and ended up being in the hospital for Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur. In those years, the Rebbe would begin giving *lekach* to everyone a few days before Yom Kippur, so on Erev Yom Kippur itself only select people received. I was summoned to receive a piece of *lekach*, which the Rebbe wanted to give me for my father.

So I stood in *Gan Eden Hatachton*¹ and the Rebbe gave me *lekach*—two pieces of honey cake—and the Rebbe said, “*Dos is faren tatten. Er zol hoben a zissen un gezunten yahr* — This is for your father. He should have a sweet and healthy year.” Then the Rebbe smiled, and said to me, “*Un zog em, az er vet farendiken zein shlichus dorten, vet men em fun dorten aroislozen* — Tell him that when he completes his *shlichus* there [in the hospital], they’ll discharge him from there.”

I went straight to the hospital that day—Erev Yom Kippur—and I brought my father the honey cake and told him exactly what the Rebbe had said. Just to show you that this wasn’t just a nice line that the Rebbe had said, on Motzei Yom Kippur, Rabbi

Hodakov, the head of *mazkirus*, came to see my father. Rabbi Hodakov himself was already ailing and aging—it wasn’t easy for him to travel—but he came to see my father and said to him, “The Rebbe wants to know if you already finished your *shlichus* in the hospital.”

Now my father wasn’t in the hospital for a sightseeing tour—he was sick. He had no choice. But the Rebbe didn’t see it that way. There has to be a *shlichus* there. He was there for a reason. Hashem, in His mysterious ways, decided that the only way to get him there was through an illness.

My father spoke to some of the doctors and other attendants and patients. We don’t know what exactly he spoke about, but my father, in general, was very charismatic and made a strong impact on people. So I’m assuming that he fulfilled his *shlichus* there by having *hashpa’ah* on some of the people he came into contact with in the hospital. And the Rebbe was confident that by telling my father about his *shlichus*, my father would know what to do. ①

1. The Rebbe’s antechamber.