



# Akeidas Yitzchok in Lubavitch

The summer of 5655 had arrived and the sun warmed the streets of Lubavitch. Following his yearly custom, the Rebbe Rashab traveled with his family to a resort town for ‘*Datcha*’. While he would spend most of the summer days there, he made a point of returning to Lubavitch each Monday to attend to particular communal matters and to assist the Chassidim who came for the Rebbe’s Brochos and advice.

The Monday three days prior to Yud Beis Tammuz (which would be the Frierdiker Rebbe’s 15<sup>th</sup> birthday) was no exception, and the Rebbe Rashab made his weekly trip.

On that Wednesday, the 11<sup>th</sup> of Tammuz, the Rebbe Rashab summoned his son and gave him a vague instruction to awake early the next morning. The Frierdiker Rebbe woke up at four o’ clock in the morning and discovered that his father had already been to the Mikva. The Rebbe Rashab told his son to go as well to the Mikvah and added that they would be travelling to Lubavitch.

The journey took several hours. Along the way, the Frierdiker Rebbe thought of his saintly grandmother, Rebbetzin Rivka, and how shocked she would be to see

them—the Rebbe had been in Lubavitch on Monday already so why was he returning on Thursday?

He decided to share his concerns with his father, but the Rebbe Rashab simply replied: “She won’t be shocked, she already knows.”

When they finally arrived at their home in Lubavitch, the Rebbe Rashab went into a side room and spoke with Rebbetzin Rivka, leaving the Frierdiker Rebbe alone in the main room. After a while the Rebbe Rashab came back out to the main room and told his son that they would be travelling to the Ohel. The Rebbetzin accompanied them out with heartfelt brochos; her elevated mood was very noticeable.

Adjacent to the Ohel was a Beis Midrash and the Rebbe Rashab went there first. He approached the Aron Hakodesh, opened the Paroches, and spoke out loud:

“Today I have brought my son to the Akeida. At the Akeida there was the binder and the bound; Avraham Avinu bound his son Yitzchak to ensure that he wouldn’t [move suddenly and then] become Possul. I also wish that the Akeida be done in an acceptable manner.”

As he said these words he cried heavily. The Frierdiker Rebbe, then only a boy of fifteen, was unsure of what was taking

place and cried along with his father.

Regaining his composure, the Rebbe Rashab taught his son a half perek of Igeres Hakodesh [Perek Tes] “*Chograh B’oz Mosneho*” in front of the open Aron. When they finished, he turned to the Frierdiker Rebbe and said:

“In front of our holy fathers I want to make a covenant with you.”

He then placed his holy hands on the Frierdiker Rebbe who he stood directly in front of him, and declared:

“From today on, I am giving over the responsibilities of the Klal to you. Both the Gashmiyus and Ruchniyus needs you will take care of.”

*From that day on the Frierdiker Rebbe dedicated himself to communal affairs—at first assisting his father in the fight against communism and then, after his father’s Histalkus, spearheading the efforts to keep the flame of Yiddishkeit alive during Russia’s darkest times.*

*At the young age of fifteen his father had imbued him with the Koach and Messirus Nefesh he would need for the rest of his life. The great Geula of Yud Beis -Yud Gimmel Tammuz 5687, and the Frierdiker Rebbe’s 47th birthday, was all a continuation of the mission his father had charged him with on his 15<sup>th</sup> birthday.* ■

Adapted from Sicha of Yud Beis Tammuz 5708 and 5718.