

INFINITE Value

// The Tomim //

Bochurim; Tmimim; the Rebbe's most treasured. A notion apparent throughout the years was the special attention the Rebbe reserved for them, and the affectionate way he referred to them in his sichos. In honor of Tes-Vov Elul, the day Tomchei Tmimim was founded in 5657, we present a small selection of the unique qualities of Tmimim as depicted in the Rebbe's sichos and letters.

EVERLASTING EFFECT

Perhaps the earliest found reference from the Rebbe regarding the exceptional qualities of Tmimim is to be found in a letter that he wrote to the Frierdiker Rebbe in the year 5697, at a time when the Rebbe was intimately involved in the preparation of the journal "Hatomim." In it the Rebbe suggested that the following summer should see an outburst of Chabad publications:

...Being that this summer will mark forty years since the founding of Tomchei Tmimim, as well as ten years since the [Frierdiker] Rebbe's release from prison, it would be appropriate to commemorate these milestones in some way...

The Rebbe then suggested a series of *maamorim* to be published in this regard, and then added:

We have already discussed the idea of compiling a list of all Tmimim throughout the years; and it would

seem appropriate that this should finally be completed in connection with these milestones.

As an introduction [to the list], a letter from the [Frierdiker] Rebbe should be printed, addressed to all the former and present Talmidim [of Tomchei Tmimim], speaking of:

The immense spiritual powers which were and are invested into Tomchei Tmimim [by our Rabbeim], which in a heavenly sense, are everlasting and ongoing now as well. Thus, the imprint of the founder and builder [of Tomchei Tmimim] is evident on the work of his hands [i.e. the Talmidim] – although for the time being this may be concealed. Even when one is in exile (internally, or in the literal sense), the Torah of life and of the way of life will enliven him and assure that he is not lost, instead acting as a beacon of light and a source of life to his surroundings...¹



MY OWN

From the beginning of his *nesius* it was clear that the Rebbe provided special attention to the Bochurim. Perhaps this is most evident in the story told by the "Zhlobiner Rov", Reb Yerachmiel Biyominson (formerly a Rov in Zhlobin and later a Rosh Yeshivah in Tomchei Tmimim, Montreal):

Immediately after the histalkus of the Frierdiker Rebbe, Chassidim tried persuading the Rebbe to accept the nesius.

In the summer time of 5710, Reb Yerachmiel approached the Rebbe and said, "Regarding us – the older ones – fine; we are older, we'll figure out how to get by on our own. But what will be with the younger ones? How will they survive without a Rebbe?"

The Rebbe answered: "פון די יונגע האב זיך קיין-מאל ניט אפגעזאגט; זיי האלט איך און זיי וועל איך האלטן!" ("The younger ones I have never refused, I have always



THE REBBE SPEAKS TO BOCHURIM DURING A RALLY FOR CHILDREN ON 28 KISLEV, 5743.

JEM/THE LIVING ARCHIVE/140053

tended to them as my own and I will continue to do so!”²

Even before the Rebbe was willing to accept the *nesius* of the entirety of Lubavitch, it was the Bochurim that the Rebbe made sure to take care of.³



ELITE

It was a few months after the Frierdiker Rebbe’s *histalkus*, when the Rebbe held a *farbrenge* exclusively for Bochurim,⁴ on Beis Iyar, 5710. In this *sicha* the Rebbe singles out the bochorim as having a superior spiritual connection with the Rebbe:

Each one of you [the Tmimim] must know that you are obligated to repay the hashpòà you receive from the Rebbe with your innermost kochos; your Chaya-Yechida...

True, all hashpòàs from the Nosi Hador are from his Chaya-Yechida... but the Talmidim are superior in the

fact that it remains intact even after they receive the hashpòà; they are therefore obligated to reciprocate with their own Chaya-Yechida as well...⁵



The immense spiritual powers which were and are invested into Tomchei Tmimim [by our Rabbeim]... are everlasting and ongoing now as well

THE REBBE’S MOLD

In one instance, the Rebbe explained why specifically the bochor enjoys such an intimate relationship with the Rebbe. At the *farbrenge* of Acharon Shel Pesach, 5711, the Rebbe said that he would give wine to

the bochorim, but he first explained:

When dealing with a formless substance (“choimer bilti metzuyar”), one can recreate it into whatever he wishes, transforming its very being to the highest of orders...

...A Rebbe can change his Chossid’s very being, and elevate him to endless heights. But there is one requirement to be met in order for this to happen: the substance must not have a preconditioned form of its own.

Those who already took their own shape, bearing their own self-made image, can no longer be changed. Bochurim, however, have no form of their own. Thus, the Rebbe can elevate them infinitely; higher and higher.⁶



CHILDREN GET IT ALL

When speaking of a certain *minhag*, and why it was only revealed to the Tmimim, the Rebbe explained:



A BOCHUR RECEIVES TZEDAKA FROM THE REBBE DURING A RALLY FOR CHILDREN ON 21 ELUL, 5743.

We find several minhagim which, although they are applicable to the general public, were not publicized...

... Only the Tmimim were told about it, for they are the [Rebbeim's] children: and children are given everything...⁷



CHANGED FOREVER

Being a Tomim changes ones personality forever, whether they wish so or not. In the following letter, the Rebbe points out that someone who learned in Tomchei Tmimim will never be satisfied with himself without maximizing his potential in Yiddishkeit:

... The Torah says "You shall choose life"; but the person on his own must be the one to make this choice of his own free will.

However, it is said about all those who learned in Tomchei Tmimim, "א חסידישע שטיקל ברויט גייט ניט פארלארן" ח"ו – ("A Chassidische piece of bread will never go to waste-be lost"). They are given added inspiration;

and they feel dejected when they don't act sufficiently. They're offered encouragement from time-to-time by way of heavenly indications; sometimes explicit ones...⁸



...Only the Tmimim were told about it; for they are the [Rabbeim's] children, and children are give everything

FIGHT TILL THE END

The charge of the Tmimim, as set-out by the Rebbe Rashab, is to fight the final battle of *galus* – מלחמת בית דוד – and bring Moshiach. The Rebbe repeated the Rebbe Rashab's *sicha* in this regard numerous times throughout the years, stressing its relevance especially in our day and age. The following are some fascinating words of the Rebbe at a Chai Elul farbrengen:

We find ourselves in the darkest moments of galus – the time of ikvisa de'meshicha; the world is covered in darkness. In such circumstances, it's hard to notice that we are actually getting closer to the geulah. In fact, there are even those who think that galus will still last many more years, rachmona l'tzlon...

... This is the shlichus of the students of Tomchei Tmimim; to save Klal Yisroel from the hands of those who disgrace the coming of Moshiach. In addition to their own firm belief in the coming of Moshiach, they also influence other Jews in their surroundings to believe in and await the coming of Moshiach.⁹



TMIMIM AT THE FRONT

In conclusion:

When the Rebbe asked of them to go out to distant cities, the Tmimim did not consult anyone... They knew that they are soldiers whose sole purpose is to fulfill their commander's word.

Hashem does not remain indebted to anyone. In reward for their unconditional devotion to the Rebbe, they saw success in their shlichus and brought the Rebbe much nachas, in addition to seeing success in their own personal matters as well...

... Very soon, with הקיצו ורננו שוכני עפר – the Rebbe will lead us all, with these Tmimim who gave themselves over to him in the front, to greet Moshiach!¹⁰ D

1. Igros Kodesh Admur HaRayatz vol. 15 p. 307
2. Yemei Bereishis p. 228
3. See ibid. p. 149
4. Ibid. p. 140
5. Toras Menachem vol. 1 p. 40
6. Ibid. vol. 3 p. 47
7. Ibid. vol. 16 p. 236.
8. Igros Kodesh vol. 13 p. 199
9. Hisvaaduyos 5745 vol. 5 p. 2931
10. Toras Menachem vol. 22 p. 294